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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIV, Issue No. 30

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2014

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OPINION METER

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I N S I D E

CANDIES & HEARTS



With Valentine's Day just a couple of days away, the *Saipan Tribune* compiles dinner options and gift ideas. **► PAGE 13**

LIFE & STYLE



It was a caffeine-charged Hollywood whodunit: Who created the "Dumb Starbucks" coffee shop? **► PAGE 20**

TODAY MARKS FIRST HOUSE IMPEACHMENT OF SITTING GOVERNOR

'CNMI better a year after but...'



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A man sits on a marine sports boat being towed by a sport utility vehicle by the Garapan Fishing Base at the end of business day yesterday. Government officials and private citizens said the CNMI is better off socially, politically and economically a year since the House of Representatives completed the public-backed impeachment of former governor Benigno R. Fitial for a total of 18 charges of corruption, felony and neglect of duty.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Today marks one year since the 18th House of Representatives completed the public-backed impeachment of former governor Benigno R. Fitial on 18 charges of corruption, felony, and neglect of duty. Now officials and citizens say the event helped the Commonwealth become better off socially, politically, and economically, although challenges still abound including 25-percent pension cuts and lack of government accountability in some areas.

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Hospital not yet off the hook

» **CMS extends termination decision to June 2014**
» **Report cites 9 areas of substantial noncompliance**

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The island's lone public hospital is not off the hook yet in the possible termination of its certification with the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services after the federal agency once again put off making a decision on the

facility's Condition of Participation by five more months, or until June 27.

The extension was issued after the CMS found nine areas of substantial non-compliance with Medicare standards and requirements during the September 2013 survey of the team.

The new extension is the third given
See HOSPITAL on Page 4

Witness testifies how Buckingham evaded penal summons

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Office of the Public Auditor investigator Juanette David-Atalig yesterday testified how former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham avoided being served with penal summons in August 2012.

Public Auditor Michael Pai also took the witness stand yesterday for the CNMI government in the ongoing bench trial of Buckingham in the Superior Court.

OPA legal counsel George Hasselback

» **16 videos of 'escort scenes' at hotel, airport shown in court**

DPS and Commonwealth Ports Authority officers allegedly escorted Buck-

also presented in court 16 videos showing how then Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogu-moro and several other

ingham from Aquarius Hotel in Chalan Kanoa to Saipan International Airport in the early morning hours of Aug. 4, 2012. The public were allowed to stay in the courtroom during the presentation, but only Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo, the parties in the case, and court staff

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New target on pension obligation bond: \$120M. PAGE 2
Firefighter pleads guilty to sexually exploiting child. PAGE 5

Local

New target on pension obligation bond: \$120M

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The CNMI government is targeting to float a higher pension obligation bond amount after analysis of the government's financials showed that it can handle repaying a higher debt ceiling.

From last month's target of \$80 million, the Commonwealth Development Authority officials disclosed yesterday that the administration is now

considering floating \$120 million.

CDA executive director Manuel Sablan and the agency's legal counsel, Vicente Salas, disclosed this during yesterday's board meeting, saying the new target amount was reached after the agency's review of the financial position of the CNMI.

Work is now being done to enact legislation that will amend both the CDA Act and POB Act to authorize the use of gross receipt taxes as pledge to the

debt service. Another bill would prevent the enactment of future laws that would infringe on the gross receipt taxes, which could jeopardize the repayment of the bond.

Both bills are expected to be acted on by the Legislature soon, according to the two CDA officials.

Salas said all these amendments are part of efforts to make the bond issue more marketable. And in order to be marketable, the CNMI has to get an investment

grade rating of at least BBB.

"Based on our review of the financial position of CNMI, it appears that we could float \$120 million bond, assuming we can achieve investment grade rating," said Sablan.

Besides the desired investment rating, the CNMI's good history in servicing previous bonds is a plus factor for the new POB. Salas pointed out that the CNMI has never been defaulted in servicing two existing bonds, which amount to \$8

million annually.

"We have a very good history with respect to repayment of previous bond issues. That's positive factor in marketing issue. But again, they're looking at repayment of the bond. By structuring it this way [dedicating gross receipt taxes] we can assure potential bond holders of repayment," said Salas.

He described the mechanism of pledging gross receipt taxes as unique but workable for the Commonwealth.

Salas said the CNMI's projected gross receipt taxes, which will be placed in a special ac-

count, is sufficient to service the planned \$120 million POB. It was disclosed that because the POB is not a tax-exempt bond, it would carry a higher interest rate than what the CNMI has been used to in the past.

Once legislation is passed amending the POB Act and CDA Act, completing the bond indenture agreement will be the next. At present, the agreement is in its third draft and awaiting passage of the bills to incorporate in the agreement.

It will be the CNMI's first time to float a pension obligation bond.

House OKs CNMI Scholarship Office as autonomous agency

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

After almost an hour of debate, the House of Representatives passed with amendment late yesterday afternoon a Senate bill establishing a new CNMI Scholarship Office as an autonomous agency and not under the governor's office, purportedly to remove "political influence" in the scholarship process. It was one of the 11 bills passed and five committee reports adopted during the House session from morning to afternoon yesterday.

The CNMI Scholarship Of-

fice Act of 2013 bill passed the House by a vote of 15-2 at 4:30pm yesterday.

The two "no" votes were from Reps. George Camacho (R-Saipan) and Felicidad Ogu-moro (R-Saipan).

Senate Bill 18-31, Senate Substitute 1, Senate Draft 1, House Draft 2 now goes back to the Senate. The bill's author, Sen. Pete Reyes (Ind-Saipan), attended the House session.

Reyes' bill repeals Executive Order 94-3 and establishes the CNMI Scholarship Office as an autonomous agency governed by a board of directors authorized to make

policy decision regarding the scholarship program and promulgate rules to implement the program.

Rep. Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan) offered a floor amendment that members adopted. Reyes said he believes the House-amended bill would pass the Senate and would be on its way to the governor's desk.

The House passed 10 others bills, including Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero's (Cov-Saipan) House Bill 18-87, establishing the offense of abuse of authority/issuance of unlawful orders. The bill passed by a vote of 19-0 at 2:07pm.

By a vote of 19-0, House members also passed at 2:20pm Rep. Tony Sablan's (Ind-Saipan) HB 18-140, amending Public Law 17-43 to give the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority the power to adopt rules in furtherance of its duties.

House members also passed by a vote of 19-0 at 2:21pm Leon Guerrero's HB 18-129, HD1, changing the penalty for driving without a license from a crime to an infraction.

At 2:32pm, the House passed by a 19-0 vote HB 18-134, also by Leon Guerrero, allowing the House and Sen-

ate sergeant-at-arms to carry weapons, among other things.

Five minutes later, the House passed also by a vote of 19-0 Rep. Ralph Yumul's (Ind-Saipan) HB 18-123, HD2, providing the expenditure authority of the Judiciary with 50 percent reprogramming authority of the funds appropriated to the Judicial branch under the fiscal year 2014 budget.

By a vote also of 19-0, the House passed at 2:39pm Rep. Tony Sablan's (Ind-Saipan) HB 18-125, HD1, increasing the salary of the secretaries of the departments of Community and Cultural Affairs and Commerce from \$48,000 to \$54,000, and the Finance sec-

tary from \$54,000 to \$60,000.

At 2:41pm, the House approved by a vote of 19-0 Rep. Teresita Santos' (R-Rota) HB 18-131 amending PL 17-91 to reprogram funds for the construction of a concrete wall, concrete road and retaining wall at the Rota water cave.

Members also passed by a vote of 19-0 SB 18-38, giving the Department of Lands and Natural Resources authority over recently conveyed submerged lands, and to establish by law the preservation, protection and maintenance of public access of Managaha. The bill, which passed at 3:10pm, now goes to the governor.



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CDA: \$1.25M CIP projects dormant for five years

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Members of the Commonwealth Development Authority board disclosed yesterday that a substantial amount of government funds have been sitting idle for years due to the inaction of their assigned expenditure authorities.

CDA, which is the custodian

of some portions of government CIP monies, disclosed at its meeting yesterday that it has on its record \$4.84 million in CIP funds in the bank, of which \$2.16 million is uncommitted and available for re-appropriation by the Legislature.

CDA comptroller Donnie Militante revealed that of the \$4.84 million, there's \$1.25 million that has already been

appropriated for certain CIP projects a few years back but CDA is clueless as to its status, whether these projects are moving or not.

Board member Marcie Tomokane expressed concern on the issue, saying the \$1.25 million could have been provided or re-appropriated for other projects if the Legislature would just seriously look into the matter.

Saipan Tribune learned that the \$1.25 million worth of CIP projects have been appropriated by the Legislature to each senatorial district in the past five years.

But to date, CDA director Manuel Sablan said that they don't even have information on the status of these undertakings. Monitoring projects is beyond

the statutory obligation of the agency, he added.

"Overtime, legislators change years after years. Isn't it appropriate for this agency to notify the governor and the Legislature of all \$1.25 million outstanding projects over five years ago that are not moving?" asked Tomokane, adding that having projects remain dormant for five years is "very unreasonable."

Tomokane believes that if a project is found not moving in three years, for instance, this could be subjected to re-appropriation by the Legislature, which may give the idle funds to other projects in the same senatorial district.

She added that laws specific to appropriation should also mandate some timelines as to

when certain projects are anticipated to be completed.

According to director Sablan, CDA had repeatedly conveyed the agency's concern to the Legislature and the administration about these idle CIP funds. However, nothing solid has come out from these conversations, he said.

As a procedure, he said CDA's task is limited only to the disbursement of funds, which is done after project contracts are routed and certified. Monitoring whether these projects actually

started or moved, he said, is unknown to CDA.

"We don't control the expenditure of these funds. Many of these projects involved contracts and when bidded out, the project is considered closed [in our books]," explained Sablan.

CDA board chair Diego Songao instructed the management yesterday to communicate once more with the Executive Branch and Legislature about these idle government funds.

House panel backs higher penalties for pedophiles

The House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations has recommended the passage of a bill that would increase the penalties for sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree.

According to the findings of the JGO committee, "It is appropriate to increase the penalties so that it will send a strong message that we will not tolerate heinous crimes perpetrated against our children."

A mandatory sentence is the "only way" to ensure sex offenders serve time in jail to keep them off the streets, the report added.

House Bill 18-113 is authored by Rep. Trenton B. Connor

(Ind-Tinian).

Under the bill, if the victim is under 5 years of age, the perpetrator shall be given a mandatory sentence of imprisonment for life.

If the victim is 5 but under 11, the perpetrator shall be given a mandatory sentence of 5 years imprisonment.

If the victim is 11 but under 13, it will be imprisonment of not more than 30 years, a fine of not more than \$50,000, or both.

The bill has already gotten the support of Department of Public Safety Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero. (*Jayson Camacho*)

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Saipan's birth tourism gets nat'l media attention, anew

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) tasked late afternoon yesterday the committees on Tourism and Federal and Foreign Relations to review and recommend action, if any, on the so-called

"birth tourism," following another national media coverage of the issue involving Chinese tourists traveling to Saipan for the sole purpose of giving birth to automatic U.S. citizens.

ABC News reported yesterday on Saipan's birth tourism, three months after they sent an investigative news

crew to the island.

The network's "Inside Saipan's Industry of 'American-Born Chinese Babies'" says Saipan is experiencing a baby boom, referring to a substantial increase in the number of babies born to Chinese mother—from only eight in 2009 to 282 in 2012.

In 2009, the U.S. government allowed a U.S. visa-free visit to the CNMI of Chinese and Russian tourists.

The ABC News story did point out that birth tourism is not illegal but there are critics, including Rep. Steve King of Iowa.

"When they come of age, they can apply to bring their families into the United States," ABC News quoted

King as saying. "It looks to me that we've got a rather open door in the Northern Marianas and we should figure out how to close it."

At yesterday's CNMI House session, Rep. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan) shared the ABC News story to her colleagues, reading almost the entire text before the session was to adjourn.

The speaker later referred the

matter to two committees for review and recommendation.

Rep. Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan), Tourism Committee chairman, said his panel will work on the matter. But Yumul told his colleagues to be mindful that birth tourism is "nothing new" and the ABC News report is just the latest of the many national news organizations that reported on the matter for years.

WITNESS

From Page 1

watched the videos, which had no audio.

Buckingham is the first former AG to stand trial in the CNMI on criminal charges.

OPA investigator David-Atalig described to the court how she and OPA chief investigator Juan Santos tried to serve the penal summons to Bucking-

ham on Aug. 3, 2012.

David-Atalig said she was surprised and got upset when a police officer revealed to her and Santos that an order from a "higher-higher up" directed them to cease serving the penal summons to Buckingham or they would be arrested. David-Atalig said she learned that the "higher-higher up" referred to by police officer Peter Camacho was then DPS deputy commissioner Ogomoro.

In response to Hasselback's question, David-Atalig said she has never ever been threatened with arrest before while serving penal summons.

When asked why the FBI became involved in serving the summons, David-Atalig said it was her understanding that it was because of the threat to arrest her.

At the video presentation, David-Atalig identified in the 15 video footages Buckingham, Ogomoro, then CPA Ports Po-

lice chief Jordan Kosam, then Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's escort/driver Capt. Jermaine Nekaifes, and several other DPS officers and CPA police, who were involved in escorting Buckingham either from Aquarius and at the airport on Aug. 4, 2012.

David-Atalig also identified in one video two FBI agents who came to the airport that same day to serve the summons to Buckingham.

Govendo admitted all 16 vid-

eos as evidence.

Pai testified, among other things, about a December 2010 OPA investigation report that concluded that Buckingham's actions "violated criminal prohibitions" of both the Commonwealth Ethics Code Act and the Commonwealth Election Act when he hosted a campaign party for then delegate candidate and now Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho at Fitial's house in Gualo Rai on

Aug. 28, 2010.

Citing statutory restrictions, the Fitial administration refused to release OPA's report to the public. The report, however, was later leaked to the media.

Buckingham is facing eight charges over alleged violation of election laws, illegal award of ARRA contract, representation by government lawyers in a criminal case, and escort services.

The trial will continue today, Wednesday.

HOSPITAL

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to the hospital since the CMS survey in September 2012 when it uncovered multiple deficiencies that prompted the issuance of "termination status."

These are all contained in a 183-page report sent by Rufus Arther, branch chief of the survey certification and enforcement of the Western Division of Survey and Certification of CMS, to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. interim CEO Esther Muña on Jan. 24.

In the report, Arther said that CHCC has to address specific concerns in the areas of governing body; quality assurance and performance improvement; medical staff; nursing services;

medical record services; food and dietetic services; physical environment; infection control; and discharge planning.

CMS required the hospital to provide a corrective action plan or response within 10 days after receipt of the notice.

Muña said yesterday that the response-documents were actually submitted on time last Feb. 7, indicating that each and every concern have been rectified and addressed.

"Extending the termination [status] means we're not off the hook yet," Muña said, adding that the new extension was provided as a result of the improvements CMS noted in the hospital and the willingness of the governing body to commit to full compliance.

After the Feb. 7 submission

of CHCC's response, it expects a conference call from CMS to discuss whether additional documentations and evidence are needed.

The "final" decision—whether CHC's Medicare provider agreement will be terminated or not—will be known after June 27 this year.

Medicare reimbursement

With the new extension, CHC is given a chance to retain Medicare certification for an additional time, Arther said.

CMS identified in its letter five areas where progress and developments have been noted at CHC. These include the key role CHC plays in providing access to essential acute care services to CNMI residents and CHC's extraordinary financial,

staffing, infrastructure and operational challenges.

Also noted were the modest but noticeable improvements in a number of areas when compared to the 2012 survey findings.

Mostly administrative

Medical Affairs director Dr. Sherleen Osman said the citations in the new report are mostly "administrative things" and have very little to do with the kind of care people actually receive at CHC.

Osman pointed out that most deal with rules, procedures, and policies that are often violated or not adhered to by people who come to the hospital. She cited as examples the CHCC's rules on prohibiting betel nut chewing/spitting and policy disallowing food in certain stations, which is

often ignored by patients and visitors, among others.

"People break the rules and when they do that, CHC gets in trouble [with Medicare]," said Osman.

She asked for the cooperation of families and community members whenever they are at the hospital.

In order to comply with all the "administrative" concerns raised by CMS, CHC has to change the "culture and system" at the hospital, Muña said.

According to her, the latest correspondence from CMS is "not a bad letter" at all. It simply gave CHCC more time to address remaining issues, she added.

"Without the commitment [from the organization], I believe they would easily pull out the plug," said Muna.

'New report 100-page less than in 2012'

According to hospital administrator Jesse Tudela, CMS' latest report is actually 100 pages fewer than what the hospital got in 2012 when it received the 297-page citation report. This, he said, only indicates the many progress made at the hospital.

"Improvements have been made in our hospital and the only way for us is to go up," said Tudela.

Cindy Hoepfer, the hospital's quality department director, pointed out yesterday that the citations are being monitored routinely. That monitoring system, she said, is institutionalized now at CHC. Two years ago, CHC hasn't had a quality department, contributing to the fall of standard care at the facility.

CNMI

From Page 1

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), main author of two impeachment resolutions co-sponsored by other members, said the impeachment process "pushed to the forefront" the issues of corruption, accountability, and transparency in government.

"Are we better off now a year after impeachment? I think the people are the real judge of that. I hope so, that what happened as a result of the impeachment has pushed the issue of corruption to the forefront, that it would not be tolerated, that government agencies and every branch of government exercise transparency to the maximum extent possible. Those are the kind of lessons I'm hoping we learn from," Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

At the House of Representatives, for example, the legislative process is "as open, as transparent and allow for as much public participation" as possible, he said.

The impeachment process against Fitial remains unprecedented in the history of the

CNMI and any U.S. territory.

Fitial stepped down days before the start of his impeachment trial at the Senate. The trial would have determined whether or not he will be removed.

"People are no longer subjected to political intimidation and harassment. And to me, that shows we're better off socially and politically. People are relieved. They have confidence in those who govern them and officials are held accountable for their actions," Rep. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan) said, adding that another lesson is that "nobody is above the law."

On Feb. 12, 2013, the CNMI House completed the impeachment of Fitial on 18 total charges—13 on the first day and five on the second day—moving the impeachment process to the Senate.

Maratita, one of the co-sponsors of the impeachment resolutions, is also the original brain behind a taxpayer lawsuit against a sole-sourced \$190.8 million power purchase agreement between Fitial and Saipan Development LLC. The 25-year PPA was among the major issues contained in the impeachment resolutions. Last week, a court declared the PPA

void from the beginning, which Maratita described as "a victory for the people of the Commonwealth."

She said the CNMI is not necessarily better off financially as a result of the impeachment because the economy is dependent on tourist arrivals.

But officials and citizens said the impeachment process helped boost foreign investor confidence in the Commonwealth once again.

Glen Hunter, a private citizen advocate for an accountable and transparent government, said yesterday he believes that "the CNMI is better as a result of the impeachment that occurred a year ago."

"We are better not solely because of the removal of Fitial but more importantly because of a removal of the sense of fear that so strongly gripped the people of the CNMI. A sense of fear was ingrained and instilled in our populace through bullying tactics and a twisted sense of respect for our public servants," he said.

Silent majority has spoken

Hunter, who runs The Shack bistro and restaurant in Oleai, said over a year ago, "we as a

community witnessed the silent majority among us find their voice and stand up for what was right and just."

"That silent majority spoke out in opposition to corruption in the face of blatant attempts at intimidation and fear," he said. "Today, in looking back I remember the large majority of individuals who did so much, each in their own way, to fight the government corruption that had become the status quo."

He said he still remembers the "amazing feeling" he had when he received an email of the photo of Lily Aldan, "standing alone on the side of the road in Sadog Tasi with her 'Honk for Impeachmen' signboard."

"I still get goosebumps. She was and is to me a visible marker of when the CNMI made the turn for the better and we as a community opted not to be afraid and we all collectively realized that there was never anything to fear other than our continued silence," Hunter added.

Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan), also a co-sponsor of the impeachment resolutions, said people came together to fight corruption, which he said "should not be the norm" in the CNMI.

"And for me, because of what happened a year ago, people and investors have regained confidence in the government. I also believe that we as elected leaders and community members must not lose sight of what we helped bring about—trying to end corruption in government, restore confidence in government," said Sablan, a former CNMI immigration director.

But he said there are continuing challenges such as those involving the Retirement Fund.

"We still have a long way to go but the impeachment was a major step taken," he added.

Rep. Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan), a co-sponsor of the impeachment resolution, said in his view, "the trust in government is better."

"The legislative branch is much more transparent than a year ago. Are things better? The economy has been slowly healing now. Most notable is the arrival numbers. Retirement is settled but [whether government] can live up to its obligation is yet to be seen," he said. "As you are aware, healthcare is not affordable due to our ability to meet our obligation to Aetna which I think is an issue for the rate increase. CUC payment is

not addressed to date. So we are still slowly healing with the decision made in the past."

The freshman lawmaker said his outlook as a leader is to start addressing and resolving the issues before the government, "and not just a band aid approach."

Rep. Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian), also a co-sponsor of the impeachment resolutions, said there is a general sense of "ease" in the community after the impeachment process. But just like others, he said there are still lingering issues and concerns.

"People are having difficulty because of the 25 percent cut in pension, the unpaid interest in Retirement Fund contributions. But matters are being addressed, their concerns are being heard."

When Fitial stepped down on Feb. 20, 2013, then lieutenant governor Eloy S. Inos became the governor. Inos is set to mark his first year in office next week.

The one-year anniversary of the House impeachment of Fitial also comes at a time when former attorney general Edward Buckingham's trial for criminal charges is ongoing. Buckingham is accused of crimes also in connection with the articles of impeachment leveled against his former boss, Fitial.

Firefighter pleads guilty to sexually exploiting a child

Richard S. Benavente, a firefighter who is facing charges of sexually exploiting two minors, has pleaded guilty in federal court.

At a change of plea hearing late Monday afternoon, Benavente, who appeared with counsel Mark Hanson, pleaded

guilty to one count of sexual exploitation of a child.

This was related to the June 23, 2013, incident in which he "persuaded, induced, enticed, and coerced" the girl to engage in sexually explicit conduct while he recorded it using a cel-

lular phone.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona accepted Benavente's guilty plea and set the sentencing for Sept. 10, 2014.

Benavente was remanded into the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

The indictment charged the 43-year-old Benavente with two counts of sexual exploitation of a child and two counts of attempted sexual exploitation of a child.

According to the indictment, Benavente persuaded two girls to

have sex with him and recorded the incident using a cell phone. This allegedly happened on June 23, 2013 and on July 10, 2013.

A Federal Bureau of Investigation special agent alleged that Benavente took videos of himself having sex with two

15-year-old girls.

Annette N. Basa, who is facing a separate indictment, allegedly offered the girls to the firefighter in exchange for methamphetamine or "ice" and an unspecified amount of money. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Two witnesses in Crisostomo's case OK'd to testify via video conference

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho allowed yesterday the CNMI government's witness in Virginia and another in Guam to testify using online video conferencing once the trial of Joseph A. Crisostomo starts.

Crisostomo faces charges in the killing of bartender Emerita Romero.

Camacho denied the government's request that the testimony of Federal Bureau of Investigation technician David Snyder, who is based in Quantico, Virginia, and Motorola technician Gerald Hodges, who is based in Guam, be taken by deposition before Crisostomo's trial.

Camacho, however, granted the government's request to get the testimony of Snyder and Hodges using online video conferencing during trial.

He said Crisostomo's right to confrontation will be fully protected with the use of video conferencing to take the testimony of the two witnesses.

Camacho determined that the government has not met the burden of demonstrating that there is an exceptional circumstance in this case that would best be addressed by taking depositions.

In the government's motion for deposition or online video, assistant attorney general Brian Flaherty and then chief prosecutor Shelli Neal disclosed that they intend to call Snyder and Hodges, who were involved in obtaining and enhancing the recording of a 911 call allegedly made by Romero.

The government argued that the anticipated amount of testimony provided by Snyder and Hodges does not warrant the expense in time and resources it would take to transport these two to Saipan for the trial.

The government asserted that this is an exceptional circumstance that justifies the taking of their testimony by deposition.

Allowing the two witnesses to testify remotely at trial, the government said, is necessary to support the important public policies of judicial expediency and convenience to witnesses.

The government also expressed concern that the FBI will no longer be willing to extend assistance to the Commonwealth if each individual who provides assistance is required to travel from Virginia to the CNMI to testify at trial.

Crisostomo, through counsel Janet H. King, opposed the government's request. King argued that none of these public policies are important enough to override the defendant's confrontation rights.

The hearing on the motions was held last Jan. 24.

In his order yesterday, Camacho said that Rule 15 of the Commonwealth Rules of Criminal Procedure allows the testimony of a witness to be taken by deposition and preserved for trial when such action is required by "exceptional circumstances" and is "in the interest of justice."

Camacho said the government cites the expenditure of time and money as the exceptional circumstance supporting its request.

However, the judge pointed out, under Rule 15, the defen-

dant has a right to attend depositions.

Camacho said it would be equally, if not more, expensive to transport the defendant, his attorney, and attorneys from the Office of the Attorney General to Guam and Virginia to conduct the depositions.

Camacho said that testimony by video conference is more protective of the defendant's confrontation rights than a videotaped deposition, especially if the defendant is not present at the deposition.

Thus, Camacho added, he finds that the interests of justice are not served by ordering testimony by deposition.

The judge said the reliability of the proposed testimony is assured because, through video conferencing, Snyder and Hodges will be placed under oath, subject to cross-examination, and may be observed by the jury.

"By allowing expert witnesses to testify via video conferencing, both the prosecution and defendant can avail themselves of experts and professional services not previously accessible due to distance and cost," he said.

Camacho said advancements in technology have made such services available to the CNMI and taking advantage of these opportunities is necessary to further the public policy of the fair and expedient administration of justice.

Crisostomo's trial will start on April 7, 2014.

Romero's body was found at the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque on Feb. 7, 2012, two days after she was last seen boarding a car near her house in Garapan.

PH consulate gives consideration to CWs sans appointment

Despite lacking e-passport appointments, the Philippine Consulate General in Guam is giving consideration to Filipino workers who need to extend their passports' validity because they need to process their CW permits.

Consul Edgar Thomas Q. Auxillian said, however, that this gesture is being extended only on a case-by-case basis, which is determined after a one-on-one interview with Auxillian himself.

Dozens of Filipinos flocked to the mobile consular service venue yesterday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. Some were there to renew their passports, apply for passports, and avail of civil registry and notarial services.

While the consulate general in Guam and even the United Filipino Organization already posted notices that only those with pre-appointments will be considered for the e-passport renewal process, Auxillian said they were forced to grant several Filipino workers' appeal to extend their passports because of their pending CW contracts.

One of the requirements for a CW application is a valid passport.

This issue aside, Auxillian said that yesterday's start of the mobile consular services went smoothly, mainly due to the

pre-appointment procedure they implemented a couple of mobile consular services back.

The consul said gone are the days when he and his staff had to deal with throngs of people waiting in line to avail of the consulate's services.

The faster and more efficient process, meanwhile, was not lost on Filipinos availing of the services yesterday.

Gerry De Guzman, who works as an accountant for BSEA Sports, said the pre-appointment has taken the hassle out of the passport renewal process and he applauded the consulate general's efforts to streamline the whole passport renewal/extension application process.

Mariana Resort & Spa Saipan executive chef William Retardo echoed De Guzman's observation and said the easier process means he didn't have to take an entire day's off from work just to have his passport renewed.

Joining Auxillian on the trip to Saipan are six staff from the consulate general in Guam: passport officer Francisco Magno, communications and information officer Allan Tangayan, finance officer Lisa Manarin, administrative officer Thelma Sta. Maria, cultural officer Mildred Sayurin, and consular assistant Lani Revilla.

Auxillian also thanked UFO president Annamae Adaza and

her army of volunteers for once again helping the consulate general in the mobile consular services.

Adaza said she has enlisted 10-12 volunteers for the three-day mobile consular services that ends tomorrow, Feb. 13. She also thanked Don Pedro Restaurant for sponsoring her team's lunch and snacks during the duration of the event. (*Mark Rabago*)

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST,) Civil Action
Plaintiff,) No. 13-0034
vs.)
JUAN J. TOMOKANE) NOTICE OF
and LISA L. SANTOS,) AUCTION and
Defendants.) JUDICIAL SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 24th day of May, 2013, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **19th day of February, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.**, at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 011 G 379, containing an area of 825 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 07 dated December 1, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4415, dated December 16, 1993.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. **Rights and duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such a property is accepted.

b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and

c) to reject any and all bids.

2. **Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such Bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.

3. **Deposit and Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Marianas Public Land Trust.

4. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and Marianas Public Land Trust reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interest of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 6th day of January, 2014.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

ROTA PROPERTY FOR AUCTION



LOT NO. 345 R 246, located in Sinapalo, Rota, 909 square meters, concrete residence - 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom up for auction through a judicial foreclosure action.

AUCTION DATE:
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2014 at 11:30 a.m.

PLACE:
D'Torres Building, Garapan, Entranceway to Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger

CONTACT MICHELINE BREL at
670-235-8060 or michbrel@hotmail.com
FOR MORE DETAILS.

ARCTIC CIRCLE AIR CO.

ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS MEETING

TO BE HELD AT COMPANY HEADQUARTERS,
INTERNATIONAL TERMINAL LANE,
SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

DATE: FEBRUARY 25, 2014 AT 10:00 AM.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL 288-8877.

Rotary takes lead in establishing dental clinic on Rota

The Rotary Club of Saipan is taking the lead in efforts to revive the dental clinic on Rota.

Speaking in the presence of Rota Legislative Delegation members and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. acting CEO Esther Muña yesterday, club president Laila Y. Boyer told members that "Rotary Club will provide all necessary equipment

for a fully functional dental clinic" on Rota.

The island currently has no dental clinic.

Dr. Kenneth Pierson, clinic director of the Saipan Seventh-day Adventist Clinic, explained that when he first went to Rota, he found out that dental care was greatly needed there and that people on Rota

are forced to buy plane tickets to fly to Guam or Saipan just to obtain dental services.

He told Rotary members that the space at the old dental facility is "structurally sound and it's part of the hospital's structure" but still needs renovation on the floors, windows, and roofs.

On his recent visit to the Rota Health Center, he shared about

taking care of patients with limited resources and using only the equipment the team had brought over. "The only procedure that we could perform was extraction," he said.

Bank of Saipan president and CEO John Bargfrede explained the cost and commitments to the Rotary members. "I was able to talk to Bank of Saipan management and they're able to give free checking account and free checks," he said.

Rotary Club past president Pete Shilling also announced a

Rotary Global Grant that will provide the remaining funds to fully fund the project.

Speaking to Rotary Club members, Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola said, "I should be smiling right now but I have a dental problem," drawing laughs from the audience.

Mendiola said this project will help the community of Rota and, with the economic and financial problems happening right now, it will be a great help to push for this project because "flying from

one island to another and back is costly."

Mendiola later told *Saipan Tribune* that he would be meeting with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board, Gov. Eloy S. Inos, and Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), to get more traction for this project.

Taimanao told *Saipan Tribune* that the delegation is pushing for a dental clinic to help the Rota community and they are thankful to the Rotary Club of Saipan for helping. (*Jayson Camacho*)

Scheduled power outage on Saturday

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. announced yesterday a scheduled power interruption this Saturday, Feb. 15, 2014, from 7:30am to 11:30am.

The purpose of the interruption is to de-energize primary power lines for the safety of the CUC line crew as they relocate three main primary power poles.

Areas to be affected include

the southern side of Susupe (Juan Nong St., San Isidro Av., Hamalap Ln., Brigida St., Barbara Av., Carmen Av., Chalan Kanoa Dr., Abraham Pl., Kotdet Pl.), Mt. Carmel Cathedral and school, and the Saipan Community Church and school.

The traffic light in Susupe near the Cathedral will be affected, as well as the wastewa-

ter lift stations A-2, A-5, A-9.

Water services may be affected in these areas during the power interruption; however, all services should be restored after the power is re-energized.

Because of the scale of the work that will be performed, CUC urges travelers to take alternative routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas. (*CUC*)



JAYSON CAMACHO

Dr. Kenneth Pierson, clinic director of the Saipan Seventh-day Adventist Clinic, speaks to members of the Saipan Rotary Club yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Alleged HK fugitive enters not guilty plea

Alleged Hong Kong fugitive and property mogul Wei Zeng has entered a not guilty plea in connection with his arrest at the Saipan International Airport last Jan. 16.

At an arraignment on Monday afternoon, Zeng, who appeared with court-appointed counsel Bruce Berline, waived the advisement of his constitutional rights and the reading of the charges against him.

Zeng, also known as Zhiqian Liu, pleaded not guilty to the indictment charging him with use of a false document and misuse of a passport.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona set the jury trial for April 14, 2014, at 10am.

Zeng was remanded back to the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

Assistant U.S. attorney Rami Badawy appeared for the U.S. government.

Also on Monday, Manglona issued an order that denied bail for Zeng in his provisional arrest warrant matter.

Zeng arrived on Saipan from Shanghai, China, and allegedly used a different identity to try to enter the island.

The Hong Kong govern-

ment is seeking Zeng's extradition due to a pending case against him. According to the U.S. government, the Hong Kong District Court issued a warrant for Zeng's arrest after he allegedly bribed a Hong Kong bank official with HK 2.3 million (\$300,000) in October 2010.

The cash was allegedly a reward for the bank official's help in a multi-million Hong Kong dollar loan extension application and for giving favorable credit information relating to Zeng's two companies. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

US DOL teams with 'Keep Your Guard Up' to help soldiers

The Keep Your Guard Up, an initiative launched by Guam Gov. Eddie B. Calvo and Maj. Gen. Benny M. Paulino in September last year to help soldiers find jobs, is working with the U.S. Department of Labor to conduct workshops for soldiers.

Trainers from the U.S. Department of Labor are

working with the first of two groups of soldiers to provide training in areas of transition planning, career exploration and validation, job search, building effective résumés, federal programs, hiring and applying and skilled interviewing.

This first training session, which focuses on underem-

ployed soldiers, began Sunday and ended yesterday. It took place at the Guam National Guard's Readiness Center in Barrigada.

The second training session, which will focus on the unemployed soldiers, begins today through Friday and will take place at the Sheraton Laguna Guam Resort. (*PR*)



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950

Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962

E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED BIDS for Terminal Improvements at the Tinian International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Project No. CPA-TA-002-08 will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada / Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP, 96950.

All Bids shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: Tinian International Airport, Terminal Improvements, Project No. CPA-TA-002-08 and must be submitted no later than **2:00 PM on FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2014** to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed Bids will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to, demolition, building and site improvements and includes concrete foundations, concrete slabs-on-grade, cast-in-place concrete, roof membrane, metal roofing, concrete masonry unit walls, non-structural metal framing, carpentry, gypsum board, ceramic tile, resilient flooring, acoustical ceilings, aluminum doors and frames, aluminum windows, glazing, door hardware, cabinetry, toilet partitions, toilet accessories, signage, flag poles, baggage conveyors, waiting room seating, painting, ventilation, air conditioning, plumbing, electrical lighting and power, complete and ready for use all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from CNMI Capital Improvement Program. The Contract award, if it is made, will be made within ninety (90) calendar days of the receipt of Bid Proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold such Bids in effect for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of Bid opening.

The Contract period for construction of the Project in its entirety shall be two hundred seventy (270) calendar days. Liquidated damages in the amount of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day completion of the Project is delayed beyond the Contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low Bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." The review will include, but is not necessarily limited to, previous projects experience, financial capability, quantity and quality of equipment and personnel, and ability to secure bonding and insurance. If the apparent low Bidder is found to be not "responsive and responsible", their Bid will be rejected and the next lowest Bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the Project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by CNMI Law or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract. A copy of the CNMI Minimum Wage Rate Determination is included in the General Provisions, Section 70-25.

Each Bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Non-Segregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", as contained in the Bid Proposal documents, with submission of their Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents, including Drawings and Specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada / Saipan International Airport, upon payment of **TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$250.00)** for each set of documents in electronic form, including the Bid Schedule. The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. Postal money order made payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the Tinian International Airport, at **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2014** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this Project. Attendance of the Pre-Bid Conference is mandatory. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference date.

Bid Proposals shall be submitted on the Bid Proposal form included in the CD-Rom obtained from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all Bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding Bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the Bid Schedule or misentry of the quantity of line items; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the Project Contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said Bids if, in its sole opinion, to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed Contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the Regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

Each Bidder must supply all information required by the Bid documents and Specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the Specifications. Bid Proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority office at no cost.

A Contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the Specifications. To be eligible for award, each Bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit Bids in response to this Invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, in consideration for an award of any Contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each Bid shall be accompanied by either a Bid Bond issued by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, Certified Check, or a Cashier's Check in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the Bid amount. Checks shall be made payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

The proposed Contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIOI
Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: February 11, 2014

Fourth attack submarine to be homeported in Guam

PEARL HARBOR—The U.S. Navy announced yesterday that the Los Angeles-class fast-attack

submarine USS *Topeka* (SSN 754) will change homeports and move to Naval Base Guam.

As part of the U.S. Navy's long range plan to put the most advanced and capable units

forward, *Topeka* will move to Guam upon completion of her engineered overhaul at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, N.H.

In April 2013, then-Deputy Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter announced that a fourth Los Angeles-class submarine would be postured in Guam in an effort to enhance the Navy's forward presence as it continues to reposture its forces toward the Pacific. The decision to homeport *Topeka* in Guam brings that vision to fruition.

Topeka and its crew of approximately 15 officers and 155 enlisted sailors arrived at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard on Dec. 16, 2012, from San Diego. While at the shipyard, *Topeka* underwent a major availability consisting of various maintenance projects and system upgrades making her the most updated and capable ship of the class.

Topeka, commissioned Oct. 21, 1989, is the third ship of the U.S. Navy named for the city of Topeka and is the fourth "improved" Los Angeles-class nuclear-powered submarine. The improved modifications of this class include retractable

bow planes, a reinforced sail for under ice operations, vertical launch Tomahawk Cruise Missile capability, ship quieting enhancements, and an integrated combat systems suite.

Topeka's last Western Pacific deployment was from March through September 2012 in support of the Chief of Naval Operations' Maritime Strategy, which includes maritime security, forward presence, sea control, and power projection. During the deployment, *Topeka* covered more than 35,000 nautical miles and executed missions vital to national security. **(CSP Public Affairs)**

Bordallo welcomes USS Topeka

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) issued the following statement yesterday regarding the U.S. Navy's shift in the homeport of the USS *Topeka* to Guam:

"The Navy's decision to homeport an additional fast attack submarine on Guam is another clear example of our island's strategic location in the Asia Pacific region. This decision increases the number of submarines

homeported [in] Guam from three to four and will add to the Navy's capabilities to respond to a wide variety of contingencies in our region. The Navy's homeporting of the USS *Topeka* [in] Guam is also an indication of the broader implications of the rebalance strategy. The rebalance is not just about the realignment of Marines but about reallocating resources and assets for all the services in our region. The Navy has

been an important member of our community, and I look forward to welcoming these sailors to Guam."

The USS *Topeka* is a Los Angeles Class fast attack submarine with a crew of 173 sailors comprised of 16 officers and 157 enlisted.

Topeka will be the fourth submarine homeported on Guam, joining the USS *Chicago*, USS *Key West*, and USS *Oklahoma City*.

Topeka was previously homeported in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. **(PR)**

Kim: I treated Quichochos with all my heart

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Businesswoman Jung Ja Kim burst into tears as she testified Thursday last week how her trust in attorney Ramon K. Quichocho and his wife, Frances, was shattered, and recalled signing a letter amid her depression asking them for forgiveness and offering all her shares in a company to the couple.

Kim also disclosed that she found questionable expenses in her company, including tuition and gifts and donations to a senator, former congressman, and other people.

Kim is suing the Quichocho couple, Quichocho law firm, their company Karissa LLC, for alleged racketeering, legal malpractice, and other claims.

In the third day of the continuation of her testimony in the ongoing jury trial in federal court, Kim recalled that in February 2010 she was looking for Frances because she was not doing an accounting of her company. The businesswoman said she also heard that Frances was looking for documents of her (Kim) company, Tan Dingo LLC.

She said when she saw Frances she asked why she was looking for Tan Dingo documents. Frances allegedly replied that she was a Tan Dingo member. Kim said she became upset and answered back that she is the owner of that company.

To resolve the matter, Kim said she contacted Quichocho and they later had a meeting at a coffee shop.

Kim said she requested Quichocho, who was her then counsel, to do an accounting of her other company, Latte Stone LLC. She also asked if she is the owner of Tan Dingo LLC.

The businesswoman said that Quichocho stated he does now know because it is a matter between her and Frances.

After that, Kim said her trust in the Quichochos was shattered.

"I treated them with all my heart," she said.

Kim said Quichocho wrote her a letter on March 9, 2009, terminating his services as her

counsel and telling her she should pay him promptly.

Shown a letter dated March 4, 2009, by her lawyer Robert T. Torres, Kim identified it as a letter to the Quichochos prepared by her friend that she signed.

Kim said she was under medication for depression when she signed that letter.

Torres read the letter in which Kim expressed her apology to the Quichochos if she did then any wrong.

At this juncture, Kim started crying as Torres continued reading the letter. She said she felt like she was reliving the incident.

Torres also presented in court Quichocho's letter to Kim dated March 12, 2009. In that letter, Quichocho told her to stop her "lies and misrepresentation" and stop "the lies against my beautiful wife."

Kim disclosed that during her investigation and discovery in her lawsuit, she found out at least \$56,000 in questionable expenses for Latte Stone

LLC. Among these questionable expenses were payments to a school as tuition, Christian Bible Fellowship, Isla Financial Services, Hillblom Memorial Foundation, among others.

Kim said she considers them questionable because they were not legitimate operational expenses for Latte Stone Poker.

She also prepared a report of about \$91,219.13 in questionable payments to Frances.

Kim said that some of the Quichochos' immediate family apparently got paid totaling \$21,315.16 using Latte Stone funds.

She also found expenses for personnel/law office in which employees' salaries were paid, including the couple's housemaid.

Kim found other payments under her company, gift/donations, given to a former congressman, a senator, a pastor, and others.

The trial will continue on Feb. 18 with Kim's expert witness taking the stand. Kim will continue her testimony on Feb. 19.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(2) Housekeeping Cleaner

Responsible for cleaning and tidying in the hotel bedrooms. Do domestic required including changing and replenishing the bathroom. Check the general condition of the room and notify the housekeeping supervisor of any malfunction or damage. Responsible for the linen and equipment supplied for his/her use ensuring that brand standard and procedures are applied. Clean hallways, lobbies, lounge, restrooms, corridors, elevators and stairways as assigned. Clean rugs, carpets, upholstered furniture and draperies using vacuum cleaner and shampooers. Dust and polish furniture and equipment. **Qualification Requirement:** High School graduate or equivalent. 6 months to 1 year prior cleaning experience in a large building such as hotel or hospital is highly preferred. Must be able to lift and carry up to 30 pounds without any assistance. Attention to detail working carefully within the minimum time is essential. Must have good stamina and can stand on feet throughout work duty. Can work a flexible schedule including back-to-back, weekends, nights and holidays.

(2) Laundry Worker

Responsible for keeping linens in pristine condition such as towels, wash cloths and sheets. Also responsible for laundry and dry cleaning services to hotel guests. **Qualification Requirement:** High School graduate or equivalent. 6 months to 1 year work experience as a laundry worker is preferred. Must be able to lift and push up to 30 pounds without any assistance. Must be able to stand on feet for long periods of time. Must be able to work flexible schedule including weekends, nights and holidays.

(2) Waiter/Waitress

Take orders from customers and in-house guests at Resort's restaurant outlets. Serve food and beverage to patrons at tables. Check with customers to ensure that they are enjoying their meals and take appropriate action to correct any problems. Clear tables or counters after patrons have finished dining. **Qualification Requirement:** High School graduate or equivalent. 3 to 6 months work experience as wait staff is preferred. Must have strong customer service skills. Must be able to work flexible schedule including week-ends, nights and holidays.

Application forms may be obtained from Fiesta Resort & Spa's security office located in the South Wing. Please submit your applications to our security office by the dead-line February 14, 2014 to be considered.

USCG aircrew saves crew of sinking vessel

HONOLULU—Six mariners are safe after their vessel began sinking approximately 173 miles north of Oahu Monday.

At 11:15am, a Good Samaritan notified watchstanders at the Coast Guard Sector Honolulu Command Center that the 66-foot commercial fishing vessel *Sea Moon* was flooded and dead in the water with crewmembers using buckets to dewater the boat.

The Good Samaritan did not know the position of the vessel, but was able to pass the owner's information to the Command Center.

The owner provided the vessel's satellite phone number and at 11:27am, Coast Guard watchstanders established communication with the fishing vessel. The crew reported that the engine room was flooded and

that the cause of the flooding was unknown.

They reported no injuries and that they had life jackets, life rafts, flares and an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon aboard.

An HC-130 Hercules airplane crew was diverted with dewatering pumps aboard and an MH-65 Dolphin helicopter crew launched from Air Station Barbers Point. The Coast Guard cutter *Ahi*, an 87-foot patrol boat homeported in Honolulu, was also launched. The *Sea Moon's* sister ship *Sapphire* also rerouted.

The Hercules crew arrived on-scene at 12:51pm and dropped a dewatering pump to the fishing vessel.

Sea Moon's crew retrieved the dewatering pump and brought it aboard. The crew was

then able to stop the flooding and restart the engine. They are now en route to Honolulu Harbor and are expected to arrive Tuesday afternoon.

Coast Guard Hercules crews routinely practice dropping a variety of lifesaving materials to mariners in distress. This is especially pertinent in the Pacific where extreme distances can take ships days to reach mariners in need of assistance. In cases such as this where uncontrolled flooding can force mariners to abandon ship, speed is of the essence. The Coast Guard is scheduled to replace the HC-130H with the HC-130J, which is capable of greater speed and range. Likewise, the 87-foot patrol boats are also scheduled for replacement by the new fast response cutter. **(USCG)**



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Nursing Club invites public to free health fair on Sat.

As part of its effort to increase awareness about healthy lifestyle habits and practices, the Northern Marianas College's Nursing Club is inviting members in the community to the 5th Annual Health Fair on Saturday, Feb. 15, 2014, from

8am to 3pm at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. Entrance to the fair is free.

The Health Fair is supported with the assistance from the CNMI Area Health Education Center, Bridge Capital LLC, Star Water Inc., and other NMC

and community volunteers.

Health Fair activities will run from 8am until 3pm and will also feature a 5K Walk starting at 6am. The first 20 participants who finish the 5K Walk will also receive T-shirt prizes. Entrance to the Health Fair and the 5K Walk is free.

In addition to the exhibits and information booths, there will be presentations from organizations like NMC Co-operative Research Extension and Educational Services. Other activities include a CPR demonstration by the American Red Cross, a Boxersize class by Trench Tech, and a Zumba class by Gold's Gym.

Those who attend the Health Fair can also take advantage of free health services including free flu immunizations, screenings for blood pressure and blood glucose levels, as well as free HIV and STD testing and counseling. Participants will also be able to purchase healthy drinks and

snacks from Tropical Blendz, and try samples from Subway and Foremost.

There will also be an obstacle course designed specifically for young children from age 5 through 12. The obstacle course is aimed to help youth improve their athletic abilities while having fun with other participants.

Participants will also have a chance to win raffle prizes like free dental cleanings from Seventh Day Adventist Dental Clinic, Pacific Islands Club waterpark passes, gas vouchers at Shell from IP&E, and other prizes from other companies in the community. Funds raised will be donated to the NMC's Nursing Club to purchase lancets and other supplies used for community service projects.

For additional information about the NMC Health Fair, contact the NMC Nursing Club at 237-6741/6743 or visit www.marianas.edu. (NMC)



NMC

A Northern Marianas College nursing student gives a free immunization shot to a participant during last year's Health Fair. This Saturday's Health Fair, which will be held from 8am to 3pm, will feature free immunizations, screenings for blood pressure and blood glucose levels, and more.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Survivors, caregivers support meeting

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting on Thursday, Feb. 20, 2014, starting at 5:30pm at Hyatt Regency, Chamolinian Room. Guest speaker Kim Peterson will present on the benefits of yoga and holistic healing. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email ccamarianas@gmail.com or cca@ccamarianas.org. (PR)

CCA board meeting on Feb. 18

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of direc-

tors will hold its regular meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2014, at 3pm at the CCA conference room. Agenda includes reports from the president and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact CCA at 682-0050 or email at cca@ccamarianas.org. (PR)

Free business seminars

The CNMI Small Business Development Center presents a series of free business seminars.

TINIAN: Health Insurance for Small Business, Feb. 21, 2014, from 10am to 12pm, at the Tinian's Northern Marianas College Room-D.

ROTA: Health Insurance for Small Business, Feb. 27, 2014, from 10am to 12pm, at the Ro-

ta's Northern Marianas College Room A-2.

Online registration at pisbdcn.eccenterdirect.com or call for pre-registration at (670) 664-3018 or www.pacificsbdc.com. (PR)

Military training on Farallon de Medinilla

The U.S. military will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

■ Feb. 12 and 13, from 8am to 10:30pm

■ Feb. 15, from 8am to 7pm

The general public especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. (PR)

MINA to hold special general membership meeting

The Mariana Islands Nature Alliance will hold a special general membership meeting on Feb. 13, 2014, at 5:30pm at the MINA conference room, Gualo Rai Center, Suite 103. The purpose for the meeting is to discuss and vote on the recommended merger between the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance and Pacific Marine Resource Institute. Projected meeting time is 30 minutes. (MINA)

MIFICPA sets annual tax seminar

The Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants, or MIFICPA, invites the public to this year's tax seminar on Feb. 15, 2014, Saturday, from 8am to 12pm at the Seaside Hall, Kanoa Resort. This year's tax seminar will focus on tax updates for 2014, changes in tax laws, tax filing requirements. Registration starts at 7:30am.

Registration fee for members is \$20 (includes \$5 membership renewal). Non-members and non-accountants are also welcome for the same fee, which includes refreshments and a certificate of attendance.

For reservation and more details, call or email Olive Aninon at 287-6587 (olive.mificpa@gmail.com); Noli Santos at 285-6810 (nolsantos@yahoo.com); Irene Santiago at 286-1106 (irene_saipan@yahoo.com); Eloisa Agustin at 287-9367 (eloi18@yahoo.com); or Anabelle Lubi (anabelle_ramos@yahoo.com). (MIFICPA)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

February 11, 2006

Hosting of Micro Games scrapped

The CNMI will no longer be hosting the 2006 Micronesian Games that was scheduled to be held on Saipan this summer. Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Daisy Villagomez-Bier cited economic factors and a lack of adequate planning as the reasons for Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's ultimate decision to keep the quadrennial games from returning to the CNMI for the first time in more than a decade and a half. "I know that the CNMI as a community has a very strong desire to host the games. The government acknowledges and shares that desire. We were the host of the first games ever and have not hosted since 1990...and we are hungry to do so again; however, the CNMI government is in a severe financial situation and cannot afford to host the games this year," she said in a news briefing on Capitol Hill.

Fund to stop pension of double dippers

The NMI Retirement Fund board is determined to stop the pension payments of any government retiree found working again in public office, regardless of their new positions. Fund administrator Karl T. Reyes said that the Fund board made it clear during a meeting Thursday evening that the law against double dipping would be strictly implemented. "We have to stop the pension once we receive documents that they're hired again," said Reyes. He said the law only exempts for two years four job positions: teachers, nurses, doctors, and certified public accountants. This means that employees in these job categories can double-dip for only two years.

February 11, 2007

Rights advocates speak up versus immigration woes, CNMI abuses

Unknown to many, the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources had invited not only CNMI government and business leaders but also members from local non-government social service and human rights advocacy groups, who spilled the beans on human and sex trafficking cases in the Commonwealth during a hearing Thursday, boosting the argument of a serious lack of an effective immigration system in the CNMI. Narrating a number of documented cases of human trafficking and labor and immigration abuses in the CNMI before the senate panel were Saipan residents Lauri Ogumoro, social worker at Karidat and manager of Guma Esperanza-House of Hope shelter of battered women, and human rights advocate Sister Stella Mangona of Good Shepherd.

Principals, school supervisors help in AmeriCorps orientation

A number of Public School System principals, supervisors, and Central Office officers facilitated the AmeriCorps orientation held from Feb. 7 to 9. School principals that led the orientation were Koblerville Elementary School principal Eric Evangelista, San Vicente Elementary School principal Jim Rayphand, Oleai Elementary School Glen Muna, Sinapalo Elementary School principal Vanessa Q. Hocog, and Rota Jr. High principal Maria Sablan. Some 31 students from Saipan, Rota, and Tinian participated in the program. PSS education specialist and AmeriCorps director Geri Lynn Willis welcomed the participants during the first day of the orientation. She also administered the entire event last week.

February 11, 2008

Rep. Torres pushes for payment of hotel taxes to pension program

Rep. Stanley T. Torres has reintroduced a bill forcing the central government to remit excise and hotel taxes due to the NMI Retirement Fund. House Bill 16-15 requires that the tax collections be transferred to the pension program at the end of the first fiscal quarter, or Dec. 31. Current law is vague about this requirement, stating only that 30 percent of the container excise tax and 20 percent of the hotel occupancy tax be paid to the Retirement Fund annually. The funds are intended for the group health and life insurance program.

Fuel farm assessment report expected in April

A federally funded feasibility study for a fuel farm in the CNMI is expected in April 2008. The study will include information on building a fuel storage facility for all three major islands, inclusive of power generation and aviation fuel demands.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy 76th birthday to our grandpa, Joaquin Lizama a.k.a. Akin Batitang. We want to wish you a happy birthday and thank the Lord up above for another special year with you. God bless you today and everyday of your life, pops. With love coming your way all the way from Guam, your granddaughter Martinie Josie Calvo and from all your children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.



Belated happy birthday greetings go out to Juavalynn "Baby-Love" San Nicolas, who celebrated her 22nd birthday on Feb. 11. Hope you had an awesome great and wonderful day! Cheers to you and many more years! May the Good Lord above continue to keep and bless you always. You are a blessing to have in our lives! Much love forever and always, si Charisma Babylove.

Happy 8th birthday to our beautiful scholar, Daejah Denise Matagolai Benavente! May God bless you with many more birthdays to come and may all your wishes come true. We love you every much! Love always, the family.

Fitzgerald to Marianas PCF: See people as 'he tangata'

»Inaugural PCF Marianas Chapter holds 2-day retreat at Kanoa

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

We can see people around us as a tool, obstacle, or even irrelevant. However, if you really want to create change for the good of everyone and the community, we must learn to see them as people with goals.

That, in a nutshell, was the message of Seamus Fitzgerald, Cultural Islands director at the Polynesians Cultural Center, at the opening retreat for the inaugural Marianas Chapter of the Pacific Century Fellows program.

The two-day retreat, held at the Kanoa Resort over the weekend, hosted 19 of the CNMI's young leaders in education, law, business, and the community.

"When people come to a resort they come to enjoy and relax," Fitzgerald said. "By looking at the islands' visitors as 'tourists' we do not see them as people who have goals and are, instead, tools."

Fitzgerald, who also serves as the Aotearoa Village manager, urged the Fellows to look at people they work with and are surrounded by as "he tangata," the native Aotearoa term for "people."

"We have to see the students, coworkers, employees, and people we work with as people with goals," he said in his presentation titled "Leadership from a Pacific Islands Perspective."

"That is where change begins, with you," he added.

Fitzgerald noted that in ancient Polynesia, chiefs always saw to the needs of their people and did not advance any decisions until a consensus was met.

PCF Hawaii founder and former White House Fellow Mufi Hannemann told the CNMI Fellows that the bottom line of the overarching goals and objectives of the PCF in 2014 "is all about Pacific pride."

"We all have something to contribute. At the end of the day we have to bring people along with us in the process. The Pacific Islands have all sorts of stories and we can teach the world about leadership."

Hannemann shared his hope that all of the Fellows grasp the importance of what it means to be a Pacific Islands leader.

Jacqueline Che, one of the inaugural Marianas PCF Fellow and director of Institutional Effectiveness at the Northern Marianas College, thought Fitzgerald's speech was "meaningful and truthful."

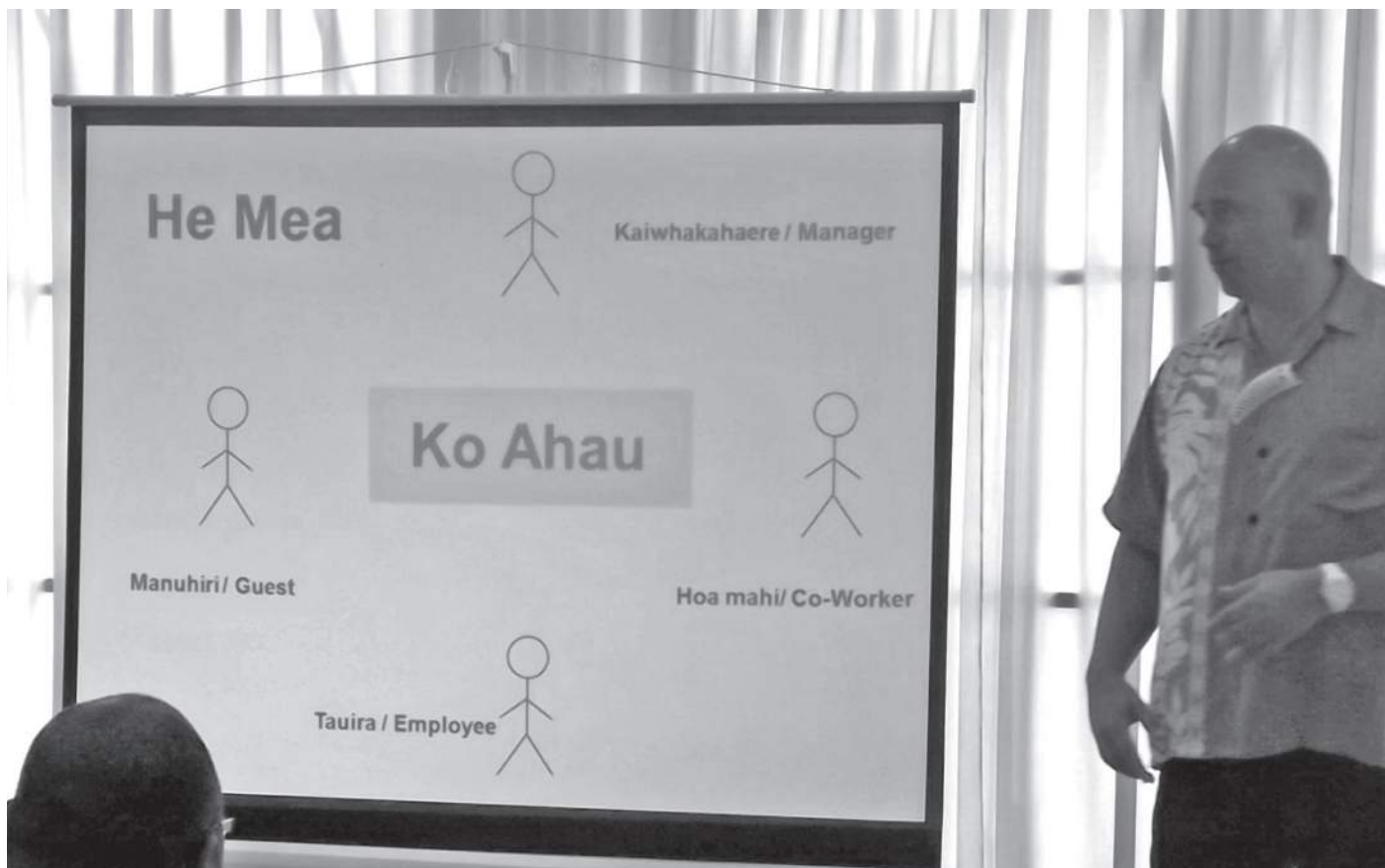
"I learned a lot and I felt more a part of this [group]," she said.

Joseph L.G. Taijeron Jr., NMC adjunct professor and CNMI Legislature legal coun-



Pacific Century Fellows - Marianas Chapter Class of 2014 have their picture taken with Hawaii and CNMI officials.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Seamus Fitzgerald presents 'Leadership from a Pacific Islands Perspective.'

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan and Pacific Century Fellows founder and board chair Mufi Hannemann pose for a photo at the Kanoa Resort's Latte House.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

issue she currently sees for the CNMI is workforce development. She explained that placing locals in meaningful positions and educating them as well as recruiting those who have gone off-island are integral in order to create a sustainable workforce. "There is a lot of work to do and ground to plow."

"Educating our people to make sure we can become better followers, leaders, and people," is what Taijeron thinks the CNMI has to worry about the most. "We do this so we can identify our needs and the best ways to address them." He added that selflessness is a trait that is lacking in the CNMI's political leadership. "They need to be more selfless and get their priorities straight and take more actions that are consistent. They all can speak the rhetoric but they need to start taking actions to match it."

One of the youngest fellows, Matthew Deleon Guerrero, 25, shared that "direction and understanding of where we want to go and what we plan to do to reach a goal in long terms" is something he considers the most pressing issue in the CNMI. While he does not believe there is any lack of political leadership Deleon Guerrero said, "It doesn't hurt to get new leaders and a new vision and new perspective."

The Marianas Chapter of the Pacific Century Fellows program aims to develop leadership. It is modeled after the PCF of Hawaii, which was founded in 1996. The program's objective is to develop leaders with greater awareness and sensitivity of the people and institutions of the CNMI. The nine-month program, which began with the two-day retreat, will bring the Fellows together for an all-day session once a month to address some of the CNMI's most pressing issues. Graduates of this program are then encouraged to take a more active public service role.

sel, echoed Che's comments. "It was very moving and very thought provoking and inspirational," he said. "It reminds us that we in the Pacific have a heritage that we can be very proud of and a lot of the Western ideas are not nearly as advanced as our ideas."

The retreat also featured Triple J Enterprises, Inc. vice president of Finance and Administration Michael Sablan, who discussed Ethics and Tradition; and PSS Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, who talked about education in leadership.

A health care panel discussion featured Dr. Jeanolivia Grant, acting Non-Communicable Disease Bureau administrator Becky Robles, Public Health Services director Margarita Aldan, and Commonwealth Health Center CEO Esther Muña.

CNMI issues

Che told the *Saipan Tribune* at the retreat that the most pressing

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIV, Issue No. 30Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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EDITORIAL

Making homophobia legal in Africa

A disturbing new law in Nigeria establishes sweeping restrictions on homosexuality and has already led to dozens of arrests.

Even before the law went into effect, it was illegal to engage in same-sex relations. But the new law goes further, prohibiting civil unions and same-sex marriages and threatening to slap a 10-year prison sentence on anyone who officiates at such a marriage. The law bans public displays of affection between people of the same sex, outlaws gay support organizations and makes it illegal for gay groups to meet. In a country with the world's third-largest number of people living with HIV or AIDS, the law could put serious obstacles in the way of health groups doing outreach to gay populations and possibly even outlaw programs providing education on HIV prevention.

As U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay said, rarely has there been legislation "that in so few paragraphs directly violates so many basic, universal human rights."

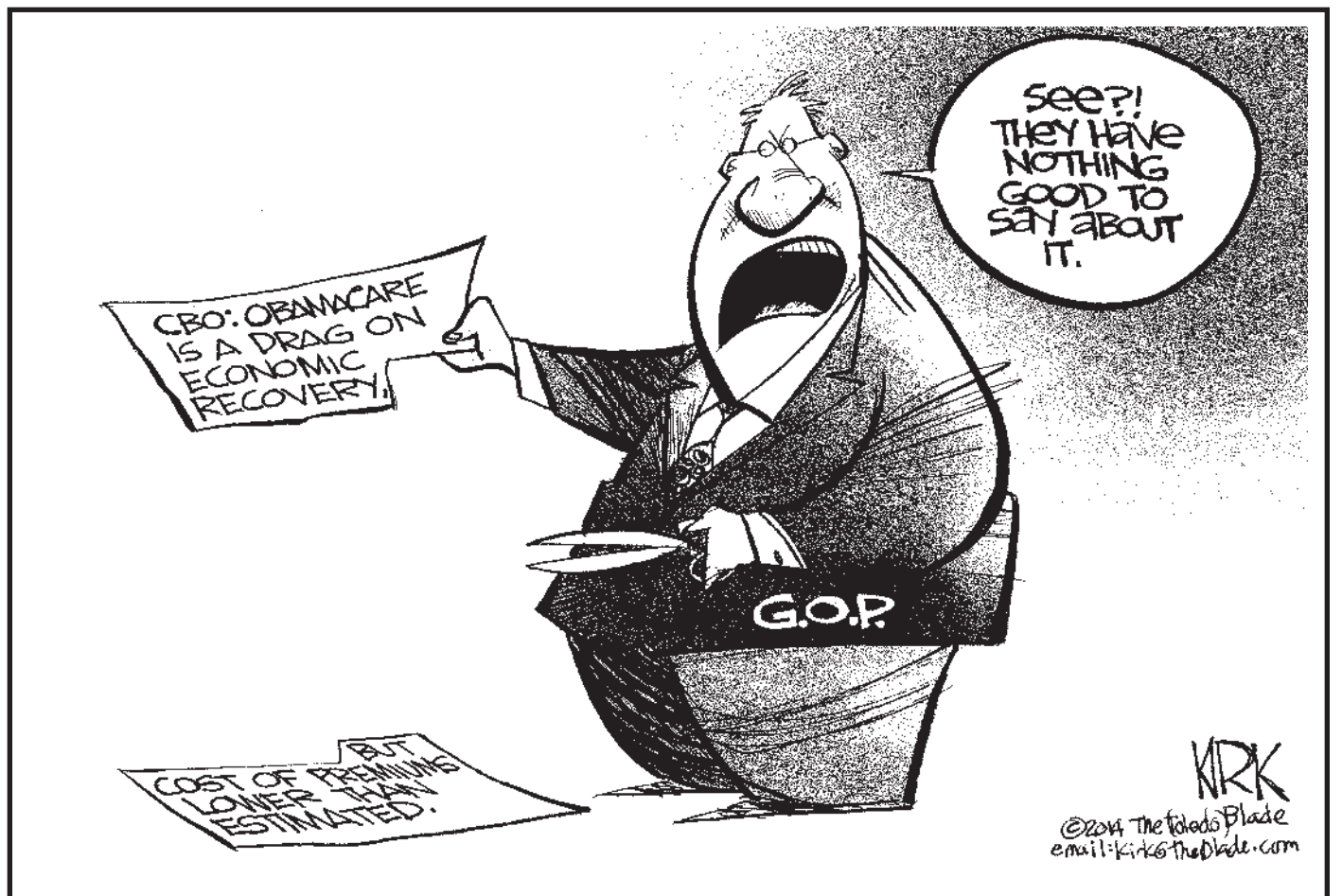
Africa is notoriously homophobic; 38 countries on the continent ban same-sex relations. Many of those bans are based on colonial-era sodomy laws, while others derive their authority from Islamic law or other religious and socially conservative ideologies. The initial version of Uganda's infamous anti-gay bill—which was not ultimately enacted—would have authorized the death penalty for some repeat offenders.

But Africa is not alone. Less draconian but still unjustifiable is the Russian ban on giving "propaganda" (otherwise known as information) about gay relationships to minors. In advance of the Olympics, President Vladimir Putin tried to reassure gays and lesbians that they were welcome in the country by saying they had nothing to fear as long as they left children alone—as if being gay meant being a predator.

Such laws violate human rights. But it is worth noting that state sodomy laws were still enforceable in the U.S. as recently as 2003, when the Supreme Court issued its landmark decision in *Lawrence v. Texas*. And only in the last decade has U.S. public opinion shifted from disapproving of gay marriage to supporting it. Ironically—and shamefully—some conservative evangelical Christians who lost ground with their anti-gay gospel here have exported it to African countries, including Uganda.

No one has the moral high ground. Every country must work harder to create tolerant societies that respect the rights of all.

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Maratita's conjectural mouth-off

The lawsuit filed by Saipan Development, LLC in federal court is far from over. The reputation of a highly revered businessman has been maligned by politicians and reckless reporters, the latter becoming part of the story by failing to give fairness and due process rights an opportunity.

Rep. Janet Maratita jumped into the fray chiming the infamous Nancy Pelosi statement, "Let's approve it now and find out what's in it later"—Obamacare. The continuing increase in power rates has the equivalence of Nobamacare, Ms. Maratita, with the recent approval of fee hikes by PUC. Is this your golden trophy for us—more hardship—as we head into the election this November?

I resent your off-the-hip statement to declare by resolution persona non grata a perfectly legitimate businessman whose intention you've failed to review so you secure clarity what it means for "we the people" you represent. It offers a 10 percent cut in power rates for the people whose interest you've failed in your obvious maligned representation and the likelihood of further reduction, as technology on new alternative energy is refined.

The businessman has returned to salvage his reputation graced by over 100 years in the family business you and cabal have easily mouthed off as corrupt. You had nothing but libelous conjectural knowledge from the outset. He deserves his day in federal court to retrieve his outstanding reputation ruined by homophobic politicians mired in depravity. The plaintiff deserves his due process rights. This should provide the leeway to find out via deposition what political airheads have found in the contract that is factually corrupt.

You see, knowledge of the facts differs from knowledge of real and reasoned facts fully verified each inch of the way. The court proceedings should teach some sense of responsibility on free expression, that it comes with responsibility.

Meanwhile, prepare traditional bonfire and bring your colleagues together and sing us realistic answers to the following equally egregious cost that has destroyed the family purse:

PUC's recent adoption to increase power rates?—your answer?

Restoration of the 25 percent cut in pension pay?—your answer?

Egregious 40 percent increase in health premiums?—your answer?

Increase of our share in health deductibles?—your answer?

The 40 percent increase in medication under Obamacare?—your answer?

The impending increase in basic food items?—your answer?

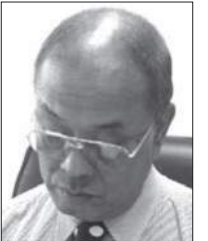
Your victory is at best precipitous in that while your pomposity may have detracted power ratepayers temporarily, the rate remains the same. In fact it would continue increasing, true? It only soothes your ego but the net effect is still lingering long and vicious in the pocketbooks of "we the people."

When would you and cabal use your nimble minds to understand that privatization of CUC is the only alternative to cutting down the cost of power? Your acquiescence of CUC's activities going after exploratory work on geothermal, solar, use of snake oil and nuclear sounds busy, though highly unworkable in view of multi-

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



technical issues hooking any of them to the grid. As it keeps busy it keeps passing any and all additional expenses right along to "we the people."

Troubling the disorienting times and a dearth for visionary leadership when it is most needed. Complicity to incompetence results in forcing "we the people" to carry more than their share of hardship. You've successfully turned the noose of self-inflicted sealing of your own political doom. Your decision is ludicrous and should have been premised not on conditional but absolute necessity to free your people of any further unsolicited hardship.

Shadows on the sand

If I were an incumbent politician with plans to seek re-election this year, I'd realistically take serious stock of my shadows. I'm talking about where it has been, where it's headed, is it behind or before me at dawn and dusk, with or without my shadows on the sand of public scrutiny on sunny and cloudy days.

Most importantly, I'd honestly answer the single most important question: What have I done to improve the livelihood or lot of my people? Most voters want solid answers, not excuses, on this query, including the following:

What have you done to provide jobs for the thousand-plus jobless folks here?

What have you done realistically to restore the reduction of 25 percent in pension pay?

What have you done to reduce the high power bills of people in the villages?

Would any of your revenue generation measures fix persistent budgetary shortfall?

Have you found anchor investments to hang your hat on? If so, what is it and can you explain if it's near-reality or just another pipe dream or nothing at all?

What have you done to improve and ease the economic devastation that keeps spiraling downwards as you ponder your future and leave your people in the cul-de-sac of crippling miseries?

Why have you violated public sentiment on casino? Don't you understand the significance of a plebiscite? How do you navigate ignoring public sentiment with a resounding "NO" twice?

Indeed, these are difficult questions and there's no escaping them. "We the people" want realistic answers. Let's hear how you've scored with "reality check." Funny how reality always wins!

See MARATITA on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

How Obama could rescue millions from poverty

Getting people to quit cigarettes and saving families with children from destitution have nothing in common, right? I think they do, and I think it could be President Obama's single most significant legacy if he would sponsor something comparable to a surgeon general's 1964 report on smoking killing people.

This time, the report would show an epidemic of single-parent homes wrecking lives all over the place.

Of course, even the most alert government reports don't always produce results. Look, for instance, at a 2001 national commission report warning that terrorism would slam us hard if we didn't watch out. Though it was quite naturally pulled off the shelves for further insights after 9/11, some major news outlets yawned to the point of no stories at all when it was initially released.

By contrast, the report of Surgeon General Luther Terry was greeted as a crucial wake-up call, although, in a way, it was old stuff. Official warnings about tobacco had been around since at least 1604.

That's when a governmental treatise, not here but in England and authored by King James I, excoriated tobacco as "loathsome," "barbarous," "stinking" and "venomous." By the 20th century, the ad-junctive onslaught had been supplemented by data showing cigarette linkages to lung cancer, emphysema, heart disease and bronchitis. In the late 1950s, the federal government announced the evidence of a cancer connection was huge. Oh, ho-hum, said smokers, smokers everywhere, sucking the venom in, blowing it out and dying prematurely.

Health organizations said this won't do, one account reminds us. They insisted on a national commission, they got one, it analyzed thousands of studies and then the surgeon general put out a whopper of a report that received big-time attention generating big-time follow-up. The benefits over the past half century? Smokers used to constitute about 43 percent of the population. Now they're about 18 percent. Something like 8 million people have been saved from early deaths.

Now we come to the family, venerated by great thinkers as crucial to humanity as far back as Aristotle and viewed in the 20th century by Daniel Patrick Moynihan as unraveling in the black community.

A cerebrally gifted social scientist who later became a U.S. senator, Moynihan was an assistant secretary of labor in 1965 when he put out a report observing that a startling 24 percent of black women were having babies without being married, compared to a national average of 7 percent. This phenomenon could put black progress in a cage, he said.

Others have noted how his work was dismissed by many and how the situation has since spiraled, not just among blacks, whose illegitimacy rate today is 73 percent, but among just about all groups as the national average has climbed to 41 percent. While the lone mother is sometimes successful and two-parent homes are sometimes a mess, the rise of one-parent homes has been a catastrophe.

They usually heap hardship on the mother as they leave children more likely to live in poverty, to turn to crime, to drop out of school. Parenting is a two-person proposition, government is no substitute for Daddy, and studies by think-tank analysts both liberal and con-

By **JAY AMBROSE**

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for McClatchy-Tribune. Readers may send him email at speaktojay@aol.com.



servative have shown that nothing would begin to lift millions of the poor to middle-class status as more marriage.

President Obama has preferred to point to other causes as limiting opportunity, and, of course, there are other causes, just none that can compare to this. He has also demonstrated that he gets it, as in preaching in 2008 to a black congregation in Chicago about the detrimental consequences of absent fathers.

He was a U.S. senator then. Now, as president, he needs to preach to the nation. He told Fox's Bill O'Reilly on a pre-Super Bowl interview that he brings the subject up a lot, but, it seems to me, not so anyone notices much. I propose he do more with a commission issuing an experts' report masterfully written and masterfully publicized and reaching well beyond a 1993 commission on urban families that heeded about as much as the commission on terrorism.

If enough of a thoroughly justified exclamation mark, it could lead to all kinds of rescue attempts and make a historic difference.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let's keep moving forward

I wanted to address some grossly unfair comments I've seen lately from one or two persons regarding Governor Inos, especially related to the Retirement Fund Settlement Agreement. First of all, if you followed the case, you would recognize that it was only through the willingness of Governor Inos to, on a whim of the court, show up and answer questions and ultimately agree to discuss a settlement that we are not counting down the final months until the run-out of funds, and retirees receiving no benefit payments. The government had counsel and the governor was under no obligation to come in and take the stand and answer questions. I was there. It was a courageous thing to do, seeing that he'd served as governor at that point for about a month, and I cannot imagine that any other governor would have put himself/herself in the hot seat like that. Even the judge seemed outwardly surprised that he agreed to take the stand. It was only through Governor Inos' participation that an agreement was even a possibility. Governor Inos deserved an immense amount of credit for doing that.

Let's be clear: Had a settlement agreement not been reached, Johnson's attorneys were prepared to continue litigating the case. Fourteen to 16 other cases related to the Fund were also ready to be litigated as well, with announcements made by Fund attorneys and others of possible new lawsuits. Not only would the bills not have gone away, they would continue unhindered and the Fund would continue to be depleted of revenue without any meaningful recourse for funding or a way forward. It was only through the direct participation of Governor Inos that there was a resolution. Otherwise, instead of talking about a 25-percent deferment and ways the Legislature might come up with funds to cover that, we'd be talking about the handful of months left in the life of the Fund. Governor Inos deserves a lot of credit for coming down into the trenches to personally take charge of this.

MARATITA

From Page 10

Lunacy of 99-year lease

When politicians push issues without the requisite expertise you know it would be rather shortsighted. What's the rationale behind the 99-year lease? Anchor investments?

Is there anything wrong with the current arrangement? In fact, shouldn't terms of the lease be limited to 25 years with bump appraisals every five years that includes cost of living allowance accruing to the landowner or lessor?

It permits future generations the opportunity to benefit from any long-term lease of the family property. The 99-year lease limits benefit solely the first generation. The interest of succeeding generations must not be overlooked out of failure. Am I making sense?

Again, he didn't have to...and I can't imagine any other governor doing what he did.

We are all aware of the mismanagement through the years that led to the state the Fund was in, and it is reasonable to argue that the design of the Fund itself was in no way sustainable. No retirement fund that sees individuals retiring at full retirement in their 30s and 40s is "sustainable." You have people who look like they're many years away from a legitimate retirement age talking about being retired for the past 15 years! That is not an example of any kind of "sustainable" system.

Had it not been for Governor Inos' willingness to personally participate, we'd right now be watching 10 to 14 Fund-related cases being waged in the courts, with the involvement of numerous other attorneys, with no end in sight, and we'd all be lamenting over the last few months of monies available in the Fund's coffers. Because of the willingness of the governor to participate directly, we are instead at a place where the minimum payment to the Settlement Fund has been met this year, and we're now talking about solutions to seeing the minimum met each year and restoring the 25 percent, instead of talking about how many months are left before retirees see no check at all.

As a member of an organization of active member employees, Governor Inos did not hesitate to accept a meeting with our group, and again personally saw to it that we were provided with regular updates about changes we asked for to the early version of the bill that led to Pubic Law 18-02, and kept us updated on the status of that bill. Again, the governor could have simply told us that the matter was with the Legislature, the Fund and/or courts. Instead of brushing us off, he readily met with us and subjected himself to our questions, and then went out of his way afterwards to see we received information we'd asked for.

It is hard to comprehend the vast changes that have taken place over the course of the short year of the Governor Inos administration. Where the Retirement Fund is concerned, he has directed more financial resources there than it has seen in many years. He pursued the extradition of the former attorney general. He supported the CNMI's inclusion in SNAP. He's stood strong in the position that Tinian be utilized for the divert air base and not Saipan and made it very clear that the military use of Pagan or Tinian for artillery ranges or bombing is unacceptable. He's also spoken strongly about the dangers that any increase in particular military use of our waters and land would pose to our wildlife and marine mammals. He killed the \$190 million SDLLC power arrangement and won in court. We have seen CUC lay out a way forward to meet its green energy requirements. He's supported the inclusion of the CNMI in federal programs like the Workforce Opportunity Tax Credit and SNAP. We have a governor who has been able to work with the Legislature. We have a governor who for the first time has talked about a solution to ridding the island of dilapidated and vacant buildings. We have a governor who's finally talked about the importance of tourism and getting more rooms online. We have a governor who is willing to pull out the old plans for a cultural center and under whose watch we've finally seen projects like the agriculture market and Chamolinian village begin to get off the ground again. We have

a governor who has shown that whatever criticisms one might ap-point to him—he cares.

Employees are no longer living in fear that they will be terminated for political reasons. Employees are no longer living in fear that they cannot be critical of the policies of their government.

We have a governor who actually takes the time to attend meetings, and show up at functions and events himself. Time and time again, whether it is showing up at a Humanities Council program, or showing up at an art awards ceremony, or showing up at the Green Gala, or reinstituting a Labor Day activity to honor workers, or speaking at meetings of human resource professionals...Governor Inos has been there.

Many of the recent attacks on the governor, it seems to me, have been purely political (and schoolyard). When the governor attends more community activities than any I've seen from any governor, it is not only unfair but despicable that one would use someone's necessary medical treatments as some means of political attack. The fact is, this governor as I've mentioned has gone out of his way to show up when invited. It's the first time in many years, in fact, that we've actually seen a governor in person at many of the annual events.

And no, not everyone is going to get every single thing they want. I am frankly glad that the governor used discretion in determining who he would relieve or not relieve of duty when he took office. It would have been unsettling to me to see someone come in and get rid of everyone, for no reason other than politics. That is exactly the kind of tyrannical behavior I hope we never see. And I don't agree with every decision the governor makes, but he has demonstrated he listens to and considers other ideas and criticisms...and that to me is more important.

The governor has a job to do, and as citizens we expect him to do that job to the best of his ability and exceptionally. That said, we have a duty to be fair in our assessment of how the governor is handling the job. I say, considering all of the circumstances, he has handled the job exceptionally. There is an overwhelming feeling of positivity in the community right now. That we have a governor who listens, and a governor who cares, and a governor with a conscience, plays a big role in that positivity.

Let us not poison an atmosphere of fair and constructive criticism with the political ends of a group of people who are still angry with the ouster of the former governor, and seek to use every avenue to see particular remnants of that regime returned to office. I'm glad we're moving forward in the positive way we have been.

To Governor Inos, I say thank you.






P.S.: For the record and for full disclosure, I am not related in any way to the governor, I am not a member of the old Republicans or the new Republicans or the independent Republicans, nor am I a member of the old Democrats or the new Democrats, I am not a close personal friend of the governor's, nor am I a member of his election "team." I have not attended a political meeting of any sort, and I am not seeking higher office or a Cabinet position of any sort.

Robert Hunter
Garapan, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Mostly sunny with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲85 ▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼75
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲87 ▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲86 ▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85 ▼78
Kosrae	Showers	▲85 ▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲86 ▼80

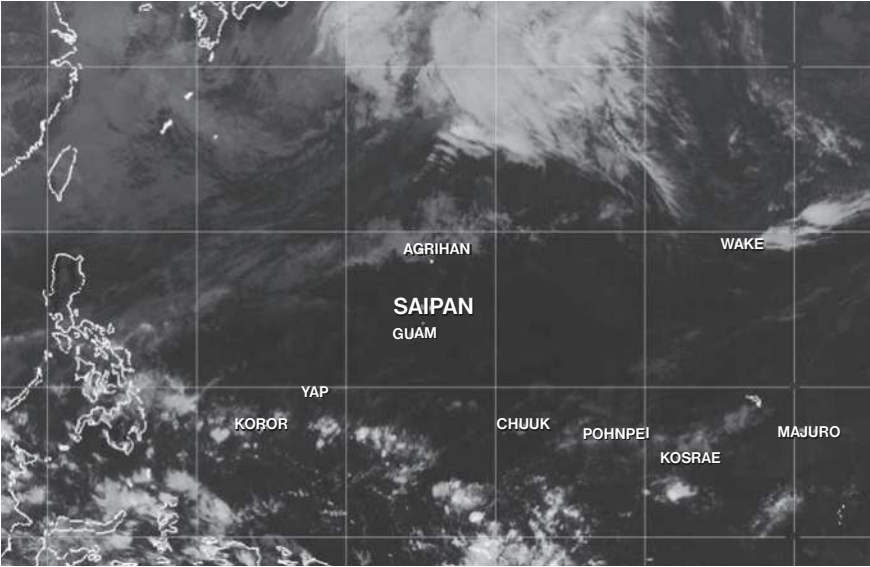
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲72 ▼64
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲37 ▼18
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲57 ▼53
Honolulu	Sunny	▲81 ▼69
London	Rain	▲47 ▼39
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲76 ▼55
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲85 ▼73
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲91 ▼67
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲80 ▼69
New York	Sunny	▲25 ▼11
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲47 ▼36
Paris	Windy	▲48 ▼43
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲48 ▼34
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲57 ▼39
Salem	Rain	▲47 ▼44
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲58 ▼48
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲40 ▼25
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲45 ▼34
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲30 ▼17

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
12:19 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
7:17 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
12:39 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
5:40 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line remnant runs from 20N148E to west of 15N130E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found along and within 220 miles north of the boundary. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms just west of Koror between 6N and 10N from 130E to 135E. A near-equatorial trough curving north from EQ132E to 5N133E is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between the equator and 3N from 130E to 133E. Another near-equatorial trough runs from 5N139E to EQ170E. Patchy clouds and patchy areas of scattered showers and thunderstorms are found southeast of Yap and south of Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae and Kwajelein within 300 miles on either side of the trough from 142E to 170E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:43 AM	6:20 PM
Thursday	6:43 AM	6:20 PM
Friday	6:42 AM	6:20 PM
Saturday	6:42 AM	6:21 PM
Sunday	6:41 AM	6:21 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:08 PM	4:23 AM
Thursday	4:56 PM	5:07 AM
Friday	5:45 PM	5:48 AM
Saturday	6:33 PM	6:28 AM
Sunday	7:21 PM	7:08 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 25, 2014

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily UA5068 8:40am 9:30am Daily UA5039 1:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota UA5038 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6 UA5078 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily UA5072 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily UA5071 7:15am 8:05am Daily UA5039 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5038 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota UA5077 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily UA5079 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) UA5039 1:35pm 2:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) UA5038 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) UA5039 2:40pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5038 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL297 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:55pm 1:30am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ102 2:20am 5:50am 3 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 4, 7 (will increase eff Jan 29) OZ104 2:00pm 5:30pm 6 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ101 8:30am 2:00pm 3 OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ103 7:30pm 1:00am+1 6 OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 9:10pm 2:30am+1 3, 6 (will increase eff Jan 29)
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU764 4:00am 8:00am 1, 5	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU763 7:20pm 3:00am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:15am 9:05am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/473 6:00am 10:55pm Daily via NRT UA5068/PR111 8:40am 4:45pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:30pm 5 via Guam UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:50pm 1, 4, 7 via Guam UA5038/183 2:20pm 9:30pm 2 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN UA5078/183 6:05pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily PR110/UA5072 7:35am 5:35pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM DL172/288 7:45am 1:30am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5077 9:55am 5:35pm 2, 7 via Guam UA190/5079 10:00am 5:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5068/179 8:40am 10:35pm 1, 5 via GUM UA5038/179 2:20pm 10:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ724/605 1:50pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:10pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-TIANJIN (TSN) D2884 10:45am 2:45pm Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24	TIANJIN (TSN)-SAIPAN D2885 4:45pm 12:20am+1 Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH) D2880 4:30pm 8:00pm Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27	HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN D2881 10:00pm 5:15am+1 Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27
SAIPAN-WUHAN (WUH) D2882 11:00am 3:15pm Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26	WUHAN (WUH)-SAIPAN D2883 5:15pm 12:20am+1 Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 170	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Candies & Hearts

Valentine's Day rendezvous and gift options

With Valentine's Day just a couple of days away, the *Saipan Tribune* is publishing a compendium of dinner options and gift ideas for the Day of Hearts.

Coffee & Jazz

One of the newest places on Saipan to get a decent cup of joe while listening to soothing music

is offering a Valentine's Day dinner to beat this Friday, Feb. 14.

For a mere \$50, a couple can enjoy "Lover's Delight Dinner" at Coffee & Jazz. The promotion includes Caesar salad and

butter squash for appetizer and soup, while the main course is fish, filet mignon, and roasted duck. For dessert, Coffee & Jazz's chefs will be serving fruit salad with chocolate ganache.

As if that spread isn't enough, the music bar and café is also throwing in a free bottle of champagne for good measure.

Coffee & Jazz is located on the second floor of the ABC

Store in Garapan along Beach Road. For reservations, call 233-7722.

Hyatt Regency Saipan

The islands' only international brand hotel is pulling out all the stops this Valentine's Day by offering not one, not two, but

Continued on Next Page

Valentine Special

Special Menu And Dessert

Price is \$22 per person.

**February 14, 2014
6:00pm to 9:30pm
Children 4 to 11 yrs old: \$11.00**

iSLA CAFE

Kanoa Resort Saipan

Dollar Days Flowers & Gifts

Visit us at Dollar Days and see new and exciting gift ideas and flower arrangements for your loved ones this Valentine's Day. Dollar Days is open from 8:00am to 9:00pm, Mondays to Sundays. For more inquiries, please call 233-2828.

Happy Valentine's Day!!!

P.O. Box 501328, Dollar Days Bldg., Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. nos.: 233-2828/233-2288 • Fax no.: 670-233-1328

Serenity SALON & SPA

VALENTINE'S Package

Package A \$100⁰⁰
Body scrub w/Honey body polish
Serenity signature massage
Deep cleansing facial
Diamond peel
Manicure/pedicure

Package B \$75⁰⁰
Serenity signature massage
Deep cleansing facial
Diamond peel
Foot spa

Package C \$50⁰⁰
Deep cleansing facial
Diamond peel
Manicure w/nail art

Package D \$50⁰⁰
Serenity Signature Massage
Deep cleansing facial
Hair cut

Package E \$50⁰⁰
Body scrub w/Honey wrap
Hair Treatment
Eyebrow Threading

Package F \$50⁰⁰
Brazilian wax
Half Leg wax
Eyebrow wax

Package G \$50⁰⁰
Hair Coloring (root only)
Hair Treatment
Eyebrow Threading

Skin Care & Body Care Package
6 Sessions Oxygen facial **\$250⁰⁰**
6 Sessions Cavitations **\$500⁰⁰**
6 Sessions Brazilian Wax **\$100⁰⁰**
6 Sessions Body Scrub and Seaweed Wrap **\$250⁰⁰**

This valentine, treat yourself and your loved ones a gift of beauty, relaxation and rejuvenation. Special Valentine promos and packages are available until Feb. 28, 2014. We all deserve a Valentine treat.

Call us at telephone nos. 233-6688/233-2828/233-2288, or visit us at the 2nd Floor, Dollar Days Bldg., Beach Road, Garapan.
Fax no.: 233-1328

From Page 13

three dinner options this Friday.

Italian cuisine awaits sweethearts at Giovanni's Restaurant with its *LaNotte Rosa*, which is a renowned adaptation of the Italian pink festival. At Kili Café, a globally inspired cuisine awaits diners on the day of hearts, while couples can savour premium *a la carte* items at Teppanyaki Grill.

Reservations can be made by calling 234-1234 or visiting saipan.regency.hyatt.com.

Fiesta Resort & Spa

Saipan

A five-course Valentine's Day set menu awaits couples at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Teppanyaki Restaurant.

The Garapan hotel invites sweethearts to let their expert chef cook dinner right before their eyes. Fiesta assured that the food will be a feast for both the eyes and the palate.

At \$75 per person, the Valentine's Day set menu at Teppanyaki Restaurant comes with a special box of chocolates for the ladies.

For reservations, call 234-6414 Ext. 1548/1544 or 233-

6414 or 483-6402.

Kanoa Resort

Not to be outdone, Kanoa Resort will also have a Valentine Special menu and dessert this coming Friday.

For a hard-to-beat price of \$22 per person, couples can enjoy a delectable dinner at the Susupe hotel's Isla Café.

Kanoa Resort's Valentine Special menu and dessert is available from 6pm to 9:30pm and children 4-11 years old only need to pay \$11.

For reservations, call 234-6601.



Laolao Bay Golf & Resort

The lone hotel in Kagman will be serving up Valentine's Day meals during both lunch and dinner on Feb. 14 at The Grill Restaurant.

The Valentine's Day Lunch Buffet is from 11am to 2pm and comes with a free pool pass. It costs only \$20 per person and kids 4-11 years old only need to pay \$12.

The Lover's Delight Dinner Set Course is \$28 per person with a special rate for sweethearts at \$50.

For reservations, call 236-8831/29 or email fmb@laolao-bay.com.

Dollars Days

Looking to buy flowers for your loved one this Valentine's? Look no further than Dollars Days Flowers & Gifts.

The flower and gift shop has new and exciting ideas and flowed arrangement this coming day of hearts.

Dollar Days is open 10am-7:30pm from Monday to Sundays. For inquiries, call 233-2828.

Design Florist

Roses are in full bloom at Design Florist at the Cabrera Center in Garapan. For Valentine's Day, the flower shop is offering arrangements of red roses ranging from \$20 for three red roses

to as much as \$100 for a dozen deluxe red roses.

Design Florist also offers a large selection of stuffed tots, other flower arrangements, wine baskets, fruits, and chocolates.

The flower shop is open from 8:30am to 6pm, Monday-Saturday. For inquiries, call 234-5593 or 235-8572.

Blossoms Floral Shop

The Gualo Rai flower shop is offering an array of gifts—flowers, chocolates, stuffed animals, and other goodies—this Valentine's Day.

Let Blossoms Floral Shop serve as your Cupid this day of hearts by helping you pick out gift options. Aside from fresh flowers, it also has silk flowers available.

For inquiries, call 235-7372 or 235-2276. Blossoms Floral Shop is open from 8:30am to 6pm, Monday-Saturday; and from 1pm to 5pm, Sunday.



Serenity Salon & Spa

Give your loved one all the pampering she or he needs this Valentine's Day by setting an appointment for her or him at Serenity Salon & Spa.

The Garapan beauty and health parlor has several packages for massage, body scrub, manicure/pedicure, and deep cleansing facial sure to revitalize anyone.

Serenity Salon & Spa's Special Valentine's Promotions range from \$50 for a package of deep cleansing facial, diamond peel, and manicure with nail art to as much as \$250 for six sessions of body scrub and seaweed wrap.

For inquiries, call 233-6688, 233-2828, 233-2288.

PHI Pharmacy

A healthy gift option this Valentine's Day is gifting your loved one nutritional supplements and vitamins.

Luckily, PHI Pharmacy is offering 35 percent off on sports nutritional products and vitamins not only on Valentine's Day but all throughout the Month of Hearts, from Feb. 10 to 28. The deep discount is applicable to both its Commonwealth Health Center and Dandan branches.

PHI Pharmacy is also having 25 percent off on all OTC items and from 50 percent to 75 percent off on selected items. (Mark Rabago)

Celebrate

Valentine's Day Lunch Buffet

from 11am to 2pm w/ free pool pass
\$20.00 per person
\$12.00 for kids (4-11 years old)

and

Lover's Delight Dinner Set Course

(\$28.00 per person)
Special rate for couple \$50.00

LAOLAO BAY GOLF & RESORT

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10 ways to create more love in your relationship

By **BARTON GOLDSMITH**
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE
NEWS SERVICE

Expressing your love shouldn't be reserved for special occasions like Valentine's Day. It should be a constant in your relationship—and that means doing more than just repeating the "three little words." Here are some tips to get you started.

1 Use terms of endearment. Coming up with and calling your partner by an affectionate pet name will elicit a positive response, no matter what you are going to talk about.

2 Be supportive in a crisis. When the chips are down, having your partner's back

is one of the most loving things you can do. When we are going through a hard time, hearing those words of encouragement from the one we love can make all the difference in the world.



3 Allow for private time. Giving your mate the space he or she needs to get ready for an evening out or to take care of some business is a loving gesture. Sometimes we all just need to be alone for a little while, which does not mean we are avoiding the relationship. We are just recharging.

4 Share the housework. If everything is put on one person, it can make him or her feel like that's all you want from the relationship. Sharing those daily tasks that make a life and home run smoothly will make both of you feel more comfortable.

5 Play with your partner more. Get out on the weekends and do things that are new. When couples engage in fun activities together, they can't help but become closer.

6 Give your partner a foot massage or back rub. This loving and roman-

tic gesture can make the one you love feel special and cared for. There is nothing better than the warm touch of your mate's loving hands.

7 Go out for dessert. One night after dinner at home, surprise your partner by taking him or her out for dessert. It's a sweet thing that doesn't cost much, and it will make you feel like you had a nice date.

8 Watch an old black-and-white movie together. Things were so different back in the old days. The way men and women spoke to each other and the things they did together will give you some fresh ideas for how to make your lives a little more loving.

9 Snuggle by the fire. If you don't have a fireplace, you can go somewhere that does and share a glass of wine. If you want to stay home, light some candles

and put on some soft music, so you can enjoy a special evening.

10 Thank your in-laws. Let your mate's family know how happy you are with your partner and that they did a great job of helping make him or her the wonderful person you are proud to be with.

Creating more love in your relationship is not rocket science. It is simply a matter of taking a little time to plan and then play. Enjoy your Valentine's Day, but try to keep the spirit of love alive all year long.

Dr. Barton Goldsmith, a psychotherapist in Westlake Village, Calif., is the author of The Happy Couple—How to Make Happiness a Habit One Little Loving Thing at a Time. E-mail him at Barton@BartonGoldsmith.com.



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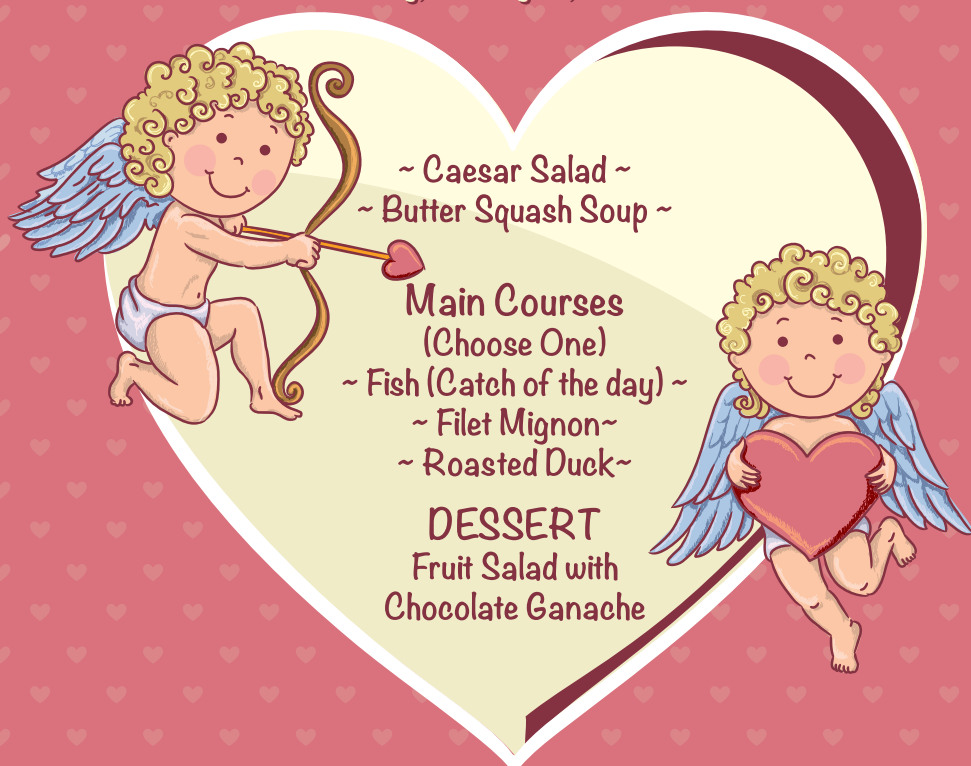
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Hearts, flowers, chocolates...credit scores?

By CLAUDIA BUCK
THE SACRAMENTO BEE

Valentine's Day is all about hearts, flowers, chocolate, maybe some bling. What it's typically not about: credit cards, credit scores and anything as crass as cash.

Except lately. Whether it's because recession-rattled consumers are still focused on their bottom lines or whether personal finance experts are trying to capitalize on Valentine-y sentiments, there's been lots of attention recently on romance and money.

"Love and money cannot be separated," said Gail Cun-

ningham, spokeswoman for the National Foundation for Credit Counseling in Washington, D.C. Because money is "intertwined with just about everything we do, it can impact a relationship—even before it gets off the ground."

With Feb. 14 this Friday, we thought it'd be romantically responsible to share a few gems:

MONEY HEART-TO-HEARTS

Too many couples never talk seriously about their finances. Financial experts say that's a major mistake, whether it's a new romance or a years-long marriage.

"It really is an act of love to

share your finances with your significant other," the NFCC's Cunningham said. "The more you're on the same page (financially), the less trouble you'll have down the road."

Without a clear financial picture, the first time you go together to rent an apartment, buy a car or take out a home loan, it could be potentially embarrassing—and costly. If one partner has an iffy credit history, it likely will mean much higher interest rates or even having a loan denied.

Schedule a time for a serious talk in a casual setting, Cunningham suggested.

For new couples, it could be looking together at income (yes,

bring out the pay stubs, she said), existing debt (credit cards, car loans, etc.), investments and even credit reports. Being honest about your financial past and current situation can put a relationship on a healthy financial footing.

For established couples, it might be having a talk about retirement readiness, how to share financial tasks more equally, understanding the family investments, or checking beneficiaries on life insurance and bank accounts. Or review your goals for some of life's big-ticket items, like a new house, kids' college or special vacation.

AVOID 'FINANCIAL INFIDELITY'

MARRIAGE AND MONEY

Unpaid bills and debts can take the romance out of marriage plans, according to an online survey last month of 2,170 individuals. Here's the breakdown:

If the person I loved had a large amount of debt, I would:

- Not marry until the debt was paid: 37 percent
- Marry and pay it off together: 46 percent
- Marry, but not help pay the debt: 10 percent
- End the relationship: 7 percent

SOURCE: National Foundation for Credit Counseling

Money squabbles are often cited as a major cause of marital tension and divorce.

Last week, in its annual Couples Retirement Study, Boston-based Fidelity Investments said 51 percent of U.S. couples admit that they "frequently or occasionally" fight about money.

Especially for couples just starting out, being reluctant to share your financial history can be a sign of potential trouble.

"It's a form of financial infidelity to hide negative financial information from someone you're considering having a serious relationship with," Cunningham said. "If someone is unwilling, it sends a red flag."

INSURE THE BLING

Valentine's Day is the second most popular day for marriage proposals, according to a survey last December. (The most popular? Christmas Eve.)

For those putting a ring on it, there's one aspect that's frequently forgotten: insurance. An engagement and wedding ring are often the first sizable investment a couple makes together. But you don't want to leave it uninsured in case it's lost, stolen or damaged. (And the same goes for fine jewelry, a perennially popular Valentine's Day gift.)

"Jewelry is one of the most common insurance claims that pop up," said Tully Lehman, spokesman for the Insurance Information Institute in Walnut Creek, Calif.

FLIRTING VIA CREDIT CARD?

Pulling out your credit card on a first date could affect your love life, said NerdWallet, a San Francisco-based personal finance website.

While flashing an American Express card might be expected to impress, it's not always so, according to NerdWallet's recent online survey of 500 never-married adults, ages 25-59.

Given a list of 13 credit cards, respondents were asked which they'd find most "impressive" when a date pulled it out to pay for dinner. Not surprisingly, an American Express Platinum and a Visa Black card ranked second and third, scoring roughly 28 percent each. But the most popular choice? A "local credit union" credit card, which was favored by 39 percent.

"That surprised us," said Jelena Ewart, a NerdWallet credit/debit card analyst.

While the flashier cards might mean a date is a big-spending, high-income, globe-trotting professional, that's not always appealing. While admittedly a "khaki-pants" kind of choice, a local credit union card might indicate your date has a "well-researched, responsible, well-thought-out" approach to money, Ewart said.

IS A CREDIT SCORE SEXY?

In some cases, especially among women, it appears so.

In NerdWallet's survey, 40 percent of singles say they are "somewhat more likely" or "much more likely" to date someone with excellent credit, defined as a FICO score of 750 or above. And single women apparently value a high score more than men, roughly 52 percent to 29 percent. The survey also found that 9 percent of 30-to-44-year-olds—the highest of any age group—admitted to "snooping" into their dating partner's credit history.

There's actually an online dating site, CreditScoreDating.com, that lets singles plug in their credit score to find a compatible match. Finding someone with a credit score above 750 means "Take him/her home to mom," according to the site.

The emphasis on creditworthiness is especially strong among 20-somethings, according to Ewart. "This age group came of age during the recession," she said. "They were coming out of college or getting jobs at a time when creditworthiness was really important. Their older peers may have entered adulthood when it didn't matter as much."

LOVE IS CHEAP

Perhaps the easiest piece of money-and-Valentine's advice: It doesn't have to cost a fortune to be heartfelt.

For instance, want to send your sweetheart a message that's a mashup of cash and cupid? TheMintGrad.org, a financial literacy website aimed at 18-to-24-year-olds, offers a series of free Valentine's e-cards to send your significant other. Dubbed "a financial twist on the traditional cheesy Valentine's card, the e-cards bear such messages as: 'Love makes the world go round, but money pays for the ride.' 'Let's spend more time and less money together.' 'You had me at no debt.'"

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Always romantic and bubbly

By ELIZABETH DOWNER
PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

Tiny bubbles in wine are as romantic as it gets, which makes sparkling wine the best way I know to celebrate Valentine's Day with your special someone. The amazing thing is that bubbly bottles come in so many styles and prices that there is a great bottle waiting on the shelf for just about everyone. And the best part is that they are all great food wines to pair with salty or sweet foods (but with something sweet, be sure to get a demi-sec and not a brut wine).

This past New Year's Eve friends introduced us to a divine treat. They passed trays of potato chips garnished with a spoon of creme fraiche topped by caviar. The saltiness of the potato chip and the caviar combined with the smooth and creamy middle layer was a perfect foil for brut or demi-



Why not drink in the pink? Many producers of French Champagne make a rose Champagne. So do those winemakers who produce sparkling wines elsewhere in the world using the methode champenoise. The gorgeous hues of these wines add a little extra specialness to an already special time of year.

MCT

sec sparkling wine.

Sparkling wines are made from many grape varieties in every wine-producing region in the world. The only one which has the right to call itself Champagne comes from the Champagne region northeast of Paris and is made from Pinot Noir or Chardonnay grapes or from a blend of those two. If it is 100-percent Pinot Noir it is called Blanc de Noir and if it is 100-percent Chardonnay it is Blanc de Blanc. These wines are the noblest form of sparklers and the most expensive, but they have numerous cousins from all over the world.

In the German-speaking world, it is called sekt and in Spain it is cava, while Italy uses the term spumante. The best sparklers get their bubbles from a second fermentation in bottle called methode traditionnelle. The grapes are first fermented in the usual fashion to make still wines and those are blended to

make the "base." To create the carbon dioxide, sugar and yeast are added to bottles of base wine that are securely capped.

The European Union has classified the terms and the amount

of sugar in sparkling wines and requires that the terms be clearly stated on all labels:

Brut nature: Less than 3 grams per liter of residual sugar (no sugar added after primary fermentation)

■ Extra brut: 0 to 6 grams per liter

■ Brut: Less than 15 grams per liter

■ Extra dry: 12 to 20 grams

per liter

■ Sec or dry: 17 to 33 grams per liter

■ Demi Sec: 33 to 50 grams per liter

A less labor intensive process is called the charmat or closed-tank method. With charmat, the second fermentation takes place in a pressure tank. This is the method used for Prosecco and a number of less-expensive bubbly wines.

Wines to survive Valentine's Day with

By FRED TASKER
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

She/he just broke your heart. Or maybe you broke hers/his. Either way, you're saying, "Bah, Humbug" to Valentine's Day this year. Returning fire at that chubby cherub with the bow and arrows.

I got your back. What follows are some tips on getting some extra-good wines and throwing an "I Will Survive" party.

If you have some pals in the same boat, invite them over, but make it clear there will be no tears, no moping over the cad or cadess who done you wrong.

First, download some pug-nacious songs like Gloria Gaynor's "I Will Survive," Katharine McPhee's "Over It," Shakira's "Don't Bother." Sing along. Loudly.

Rent some movies. But no teary chick flicks, even if you're a (forgive me) chick. Rent "Apocalypse Now." Rent every "Star Trek" or "Star Wars" video you can find.

Or every movie you can find starring Arnold, Bruce or Vin.

Or rent movies with tough female leads like the ones in "Hunger Games," "Aliens," "Mommy Dearest," even that one with Jessica Rabbit.

The meal is obvious: big steaks for the women, bottomless cartons of ice cream for the men. Wait—do I have that backwards? Whatever: Let's keep this gender-neutral.

Now for the wine: Without the expense of flowers, candy and fancy restaurant meals, you can splurge on some really nice wine (in moderation, of course).

You should pick the wines even more carefully than last year, when you were putting together a romantic dinner for your then-significant other.

These wines are for you.

Here are some of the finest wines I've tasted recently. You should start, of course, with a nice bubbly to toast your newfound freedom and the infinite possibilities of the future.

You go, girl/guy!

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

■ Nonvintage Chandon Etoile Rosé sparkling wine, Napa/Sonoma: (49 percent chardonnay, 45 percent pinot noir, 6 percent pinot meunier): salmon color, lots of long-lasting bubbles, aromas and flavors of red raspberries and spice; \$50.

■ 2011 Champ de Rêves Pinot Noir, Anderson Valley: powerful and crisp, with aromas and flavors of black raspberries, licorice and tobacco, full and creamy; \$40.

■ 2012 Artein Zinfandel, Mendocino County: aromas and flavors of red raspberries and black pepper, spicy, hearty, smooth; \$18.

■ 2011 Grgich Hills Estate Chardonnay, Napa Valley: crisp flavors of ripe lemons and apricots, smooth and full-bodied, hint of minerals; \$42.

■ 2012 Wente Vineyards "Riverbank" Riesling, Arroyo Seco, Monterey: hint of sweetness, aromas and flavors of pink grapefruit and minerals, crisp; \$15.

RECOMMENDED:

■ 2012 Gavilan Chardonnay, by Chalone Vineyard, Sonoma: crisp and lively, with a hint of oak and tropical fruit aromas and flavors; \$20.

■ 2011 Wild Horse Winery Cabernet Sauvignon, Central Coast: black cherries and black pepper, firm tannins, full body; \$20.

■ 2012 Edna Valley Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc, Central Coast: aromas and flavors of white grapefruit and grass, full body, long finish; \$15.

■ 2010 Matanzas Creek Winery Merlot, Sonoma County: aromas and flavors of black cherries and dark chocolate, firm tannins; \$28.

■ 2011 MacMurray Ranch Pinot Noir, Central Coast: hint of oak, flavors of black cherries and black coffee, rich and dry, crisp acids; \$23.

■ 2012 Priest Ranch Grenache Blanc, Somerston Estate, Napa Valley: aromas and flavors of ripe pears and oranges, crisp and light-bodied; \$22.

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200-plus avail of MAHAL's quarterly health outreach

The Quarterly Community Health and Wellness Program last Sunday at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe drew more than 200 people who availed of health screening services.

Rene Reyes, founding president of the Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs Ltd., said a total of 280 people availed of free blood pressure, blood sugar, and eye checkups; breast and Pap smear exams, and flu vaccines for children.

Reyes said he was happy with the turnout because it was much larger than in previous outreach efforts. Some had health problems already while others just wanted to find out about their health.

The program was made possible and offered free of charge by various government and non-government organizations: St. Paul's Episcopal Church led by Dr. Jeanoliver Grant (CHC physician), Dr. William Fisher, Dr. Christine Strong (CHC), Trina Sablan, and Alfred Maliaman of CHC-PHC, Dr. David Hardt and Marissa Hardt of Hardt Eye Clinic and their staff, Eric Mahinay; Elizabeth Jucutan, Rhel Balboa, Bryan Balboa, and John Balboa; Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs Ltd. (Rene Reyes and Belinda Palma and family, Fe Calixterio, Irene Santiago, Normita Cabalbag, Jojo Lazaro, and Virgie Paet), Boni Sagana of the DEKADA movement, and John Denmark Lizardo, SN and Joy Larcorte, SN of the Northern Marianas College's Nursing Club.

The Quarterly Community Health and Wellness Program aims to promote healthier lifestyles and awareness, especially among those who don't have free health care and insurance.

MAHAL invites those who did not attend last Sunday's program to avail of the free services the Community Health and Wellness Program offers every quarter. Reyes urges them to "please mark your calendars and stay tuned for the next scheduled event." (*Jayson Camacho*)



People wait for their turn at the Quarterly Community Health and Wellness Program last Sunday at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Volunteers help out at the Quarterly Community Health and Wellness Program on Sunday. The event drew more than 200 people who availed of free health screening services.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Physicians and other medical volunteers offered their services for free at the Quarterly Community Health and Wellness Program on Sunday at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Civilian and medical volunteers have their picture taken during a brief lull in Sunday's Quarterly Community Health and Wellness Program at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion.

Campus Life

ESFDB names school-level STEM Fair winners



One of the students explains his project to the judges.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ESFDB STEM Fair winners pose with their projects. They will be going to Saipan for the CNMI Wide STEM Fair.

The Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja cafeteria was recently full of 1st to 8th grade student scientists with their projects for the annual school-level Science Technology Engineering Mathematics Fair.

The annual school level STEM Fair showcases the school's talented and brightest students.

The subjects and experiments of the projects were chosen by the students themselves and were judged by members of the Luta scientific community such as science teachers or majors.

The STEM Fair featured seven categories: life science, physical science, earth and space science, health and nutrition and medical, behavioral and social science, technology and electronics, and mathematics.

Mary Rose Lucero, science teacher and science fair coordinator, said, "I am always amazed by the creativity and effort the students put into their projects."

Lucero has been coordinating the STEM Fair in the last two years and the school has sent about 18 projects to the CNMI

Wide STEM Fair, placing first, second, and third place finishes.

For the first time, the school took home the overall first place win at the CNMI Fair last year. The win brought the school to another level of competition at the 35th Annual Guam Islandwide Science Fair—an impressive record for the small school who took first place at the Guam Fair.

According to ESFDB administrator/principal Carmen H. Atalig, "Science not only helps encourage children to learn more about the world around them, it helps build a local pool

of scientists, engineers, mathematicians, or even doctors."

"We are proud of all these amazingly bright and talented students," added Atalig.

This year's school level winners are John Anthony Tobongbanua (1st Grade), MJ Mahusay (2nd Grade), Agatha Marie Gascon (2nd Grade), Maria Althea Mendiola (4th Grade), Jeremy John Atalig II (5th Grade), Tyra Reese Calvo (7th Grade), and Angelica Lucero (8th Grade).

These winners will be heading to Saipan sometime in March to represent the school

and the Luta community at the PSS CNMI Wide STEM Fair.

"This is my second time to compete [on] Saipan. Last time I took third place and I am thinking positive in this year's fair," said Calvo.

Lucero said she will try her best and hopefully represent the CNMI again at the Guam STEM Fair.

"I am happy and excited," said Gascon of her win at the school-level science fair. "This is my first science project and I will have a chance to compete [on] Saipan."

"I encourage parents to continue helping their child in this worthwhile event. Who knows where the future will take the child in this science fair. One thing is for sure, these bright young minds are evidence that science can be fun, not to mention rewarding," said ESFDB board president Edward Maratita Jr.

The judges were Rev. Fr. Charlie Borja, Francisco Calvo, Alejandro Badilles, Tita Hocog, and Edward Maratita Jr. Tita Hocog donated the prize. (ESFDB)

In Celebration of His New Life

†Jose Cabrera Tudela

September 18, 1931 — February 08, 2014

In His New Life, He Now Joins His:

Wife: †Margarita Sablan Cabrera Tudela
Parents: †Isidro Sablan Tudela
 †Rosa Palacios Cabrera Tudela
Parents In Law: †Augustin Sablan Tudela
 †Jose SanNicolas Cabrera
 †Cecilia Palacios Sablan Cabrera Tudela
Son: †Aldebert C. Tudela
Grandson: †Robert Atalig Tudela
Granddaughter: †Sabra Tudela Camacho
Sister In Law: †Carmen Cabrera Tudela
Brother In Law: †Antonio Sablan Tudela

His Memories Will Forever Live In The Hearts of His Children and Families:

Francisco C. and Cynthia A. Tudela, Children and family
 Diego C. and †Victoria O. Tudela, Children and family
 Brian C. Tudela, Children and family
 Priscilla C. Tudela, Children and family
 Bernice T. and Calistro I. Reyes, Children and family
 Lillian C. Tudela and Jose M. Camacho, Children and family
 Alvin C. and Rose Marie T. Tudela, Children and family
 James C. and Clarissa C. Tudela, Children and family
 Gary C. Tudela
Brothers and Sisters and In-Laws: †Basilisa C. Tudela, †Alejandro C. / †Romana V. Tudela / Ana Y. Tudela,
 †Candido C. / Consolacion A. Tudela, †Margaret T. / †Edward J. Riva, †Ismael C. Tudela, †Natalie T. /
 †Charles R. Ronsheimer, †Sylvia T. / Irenio Asuncion, Teresita T. / Daniel L. Camacho, †Jesusa C.
 Tudela, †Inocencia C. Tudela, †Rafael DLG. Tudela

Caregiver: Daisy DelaCruz and Adelina Mandia

He is additionally survived by numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Daily Mass of Intentions are being celebrated each morning at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa at 6:00am and Holy Rosary is being recited each evening at 7:00pm.

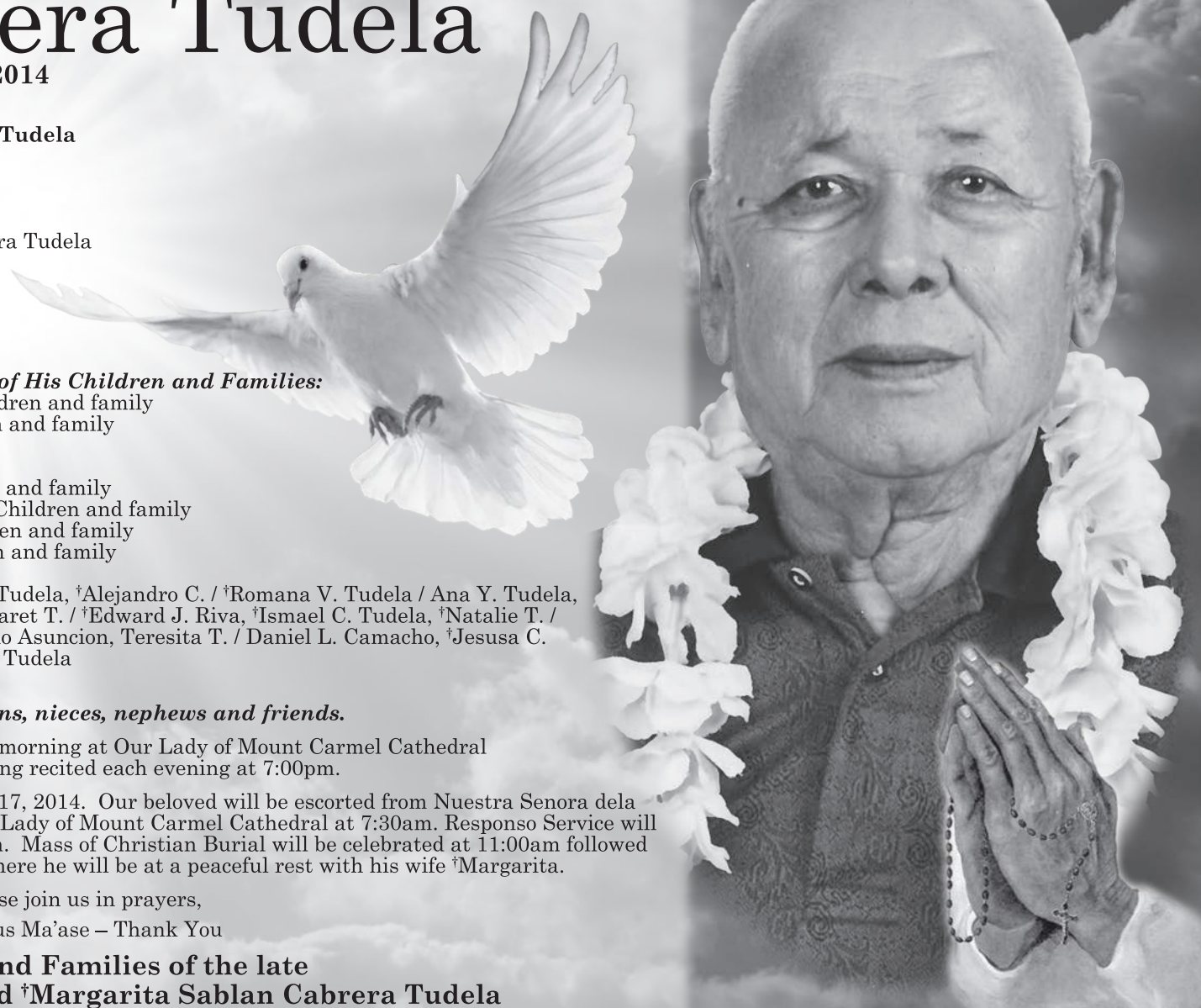
Funeral Services will be held on Monday, February 17, 2014. Our beloved will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel - Beach Rd., Garapan to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral at 7:30am. Responso Service will be at 8:00am followed by the Last Rosary at 8:30am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am followed by Interment Service at Chalan Kanoa cemetery where he will be at a peaceful rest with his wife †Margarita.

Please join us in prayers,

Si Yu'us Ma'ase — Thank You

Children and Families of the late

†Jose Cabrera Tudela and †Margarita Sablan Cabrera Tudela



Life & Style

'Dumb Starbucks' brings lines, social media buzz

By JUSTIN PRITCHARD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

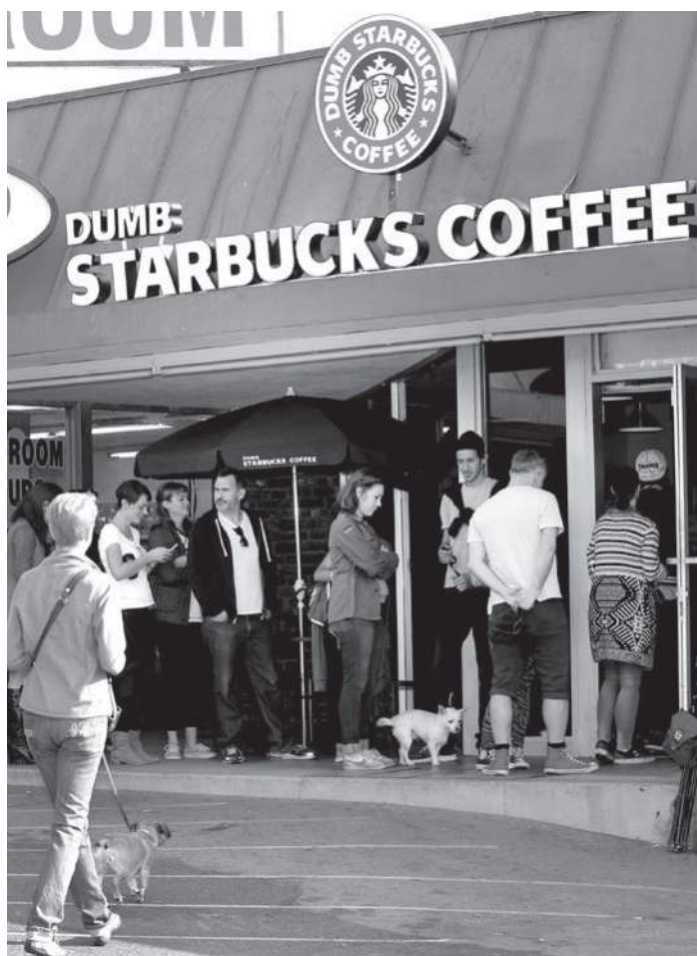
LOS ANGELES (AP)—It was a caffeine-charged Hollywood whodunit: Who created the "Dumb Starbucks" coffee shop that popped up and started serving free drinks from the corner of an otherwise uncelebrated California shopping center.

After several days of speculation, the news came Monday: The shop was a Canadian comedian's publicity stunt.

Nathan Fielder told a crowd he was pursuing the "American dream"—before acknowledging that he planned to use the bit on his Comedy Central show "Nathan For You."

For much of the weekend, a line from the store wound alongside the parking lot and up the block. They weren't coming for gourmet fare: Their descriptions of the coffee ranged from "horrible" to "bitter."

Dumb Starbucks opened Friday, and interest grew over the weekend with a boost from posts on Twitter and



People line up at Dumb Starbucks coffee in Los Angeles Monday, Feb. 10, 2014.

Facebook.

Once opened, Dumb Starbucks caught the attention of the

real Starbucks.

"While we appreciate the humor, they cannot use our name,

which is a protected trademark," spokeswoman Laurel Harper said in an email.

She added that most trademark disputes are handled informally, suggesting the company might not need to take legal action.

At the front counter, a frequently asked questions sheet said the store was shielded by "parody law."

"By adding the word 'dumb,' we are technically 'making fun' of Starbucks, which allows us to use their trademarks under a law known as 'fair use,'" the sheet said.

It continued: "In the eyes of the law, our 'coffee shop' is actually an art gallery and the 'coffee' you're buying is considered art. But that's for our lawyers to worry about."

One law professor suggested Dumb Starbucks needed to sharpen its legal theory.

"Fair use" can protect parodies of copyright material, but a trademark such as the logo has different protections that Dumb Starbucks may well be violating, said Mark McKenna, a trademark law expert at the University of Notre Dame.

Fielder, the comedian, told a news conference Monday that he didn't need Starbucks' permission and he was glad they had not pursued a "case they know they can't win."

Soon after, he said city health inspectors had arrived and told his staff that they had to stop serving drinks.

Oscar nominees arrive for annual luncheon

By JESSICA HERNDON
AP FILM WRITER

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—More than 150 Oscar nominees gathered at a Beverly Hills hotel on Monday to celebrate the joy of just being nominated.

Honorees in all 24 of this year's Oscar categories—from hairstylists to A-listers—turned out for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences annual nominees luncheon.

But the festivities held in a blue-hued ballroom at the Beverly Hilton Hotel were not without a little business—like when Oscar show co-producer Craig Zadan told prospective winners to keep it moving on the big night.

"Please get to the stage quickly, really quickly," Zadan said. "The moment you reach the microphone, the timer begins and you will have 45 seconds to speak."

Seeking to tighten a broadcast that has approached four hours in recent years, Zadan warned potential group winners to select a designated speaker "who should begin to speak immediately before the whole group has assembled onstage."

"The show is successful if the pacing of the evening feels brisk," he said to a chorus of laughter from the skeptical crowd.

Before lunch was served, nominees mingled around ta-

bles adorned with white roses and chatted about the stress of award season.

"I'm not used to this," said Julie Delpy, nominated for best adapted screenplay for "Before Midnight." "It's hard, actually, because I don't have a structure around me with like 10 nannies. It gets really messy. I'm just hanging in there, barely."

The writer-actress added that she hadn't yet settled on her Oscar night look.

"I'm kind of nervous," she admitted. "I'm not the kind of actress that is in the gym and not eating. Some people do that, but I'm not able to. I have a kid and I'm raising him and I'm writing. So doing two hours at the gym is not something I have time to do or like to do."

Delpy then rushed over to fellow nominee and rising fashion star Lupita Nyong'o of "12 Years a Slave" and gushed as the two snapped a photo together.

Nearby, a giggling Meryl Streep chatted with Bruce Dern; Josh Gad greeted Sandra Bullock with a kiss on both cheeks; and Ethan Hawke could be seen introducing his date for the afternoon, daughter Maya Thurman Hawke, to everyone from Leonardo DiCaprio to Spike Jonze.

At one point, Bono announced that he was going to perform the nominated song "Ordinary Love" from "Mandela" on the March 2 Oscar broadcast.

'I do not fit in': Singer k.d. lang on Broadway

By MARK KENNEDY
AP DRAMA WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—If you're a little surprised to discover that alt-country star k.d. lang is coming to Broadway, so is lang.

"It is outside my comfort zone. It is something that I never thought I'd be doing," the Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter says. "I just try to follow my heart and my muse and the opportunities that arise for me and what's inspiring me."

Lang will take over from Fantasia Barrino as the second star vocalist in "After Midnight," a musical celebrating Duke Ellington's years at the Cotton Club nightclub in Harlem. Lang, blessed with androgynous looks and a sensuous voice, starts performances Tuesday and will end her run March 9.

"After Midnight" is a sort of candy sampler of some two dozen musical numbers that showcase dance, jazz or singing. Lang will be called on to sing "I Can't Give You Anything But Love," "Stormy Weather," "On the Sunny

Side of the Street" and "Zaz Zuh Zaz."

"I imagine it's going to be quite a different place than Fantasia," she says, laughing. "I want to approach things from a naive point of view, from a reactionary, emotional point of view."

Lang, 52, has won four Grammys and is perhaps best known for her cover of Roy Orbison's "Crying," her interpretation of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" and her hit song "Constant Craving."

She also caused a stir in the 1980s when she posed on the cover of Vanity Fair in a barber's chair being shaved by supermodel Cindy Crawford.

Although musical theater was never one of her interests growing up, this self-styled "musical nomad" will now be working with Wynton Marsalis on Broadway with a 17-piece band. She even agreed to do the show before seeing it.

The Associated Press sat down with lang shortly after her arrival from her home in Portland, Ore., and asked her about this odd left turn and why she

almost didn't take it.

AP: How did you get lured to Broadway?

lang: My No. 1 attraction was the music and the original Duke Ellington arrangements. I mean, that's a no-brainer. I look at my life as a lifelong learning process of being a vocalist, and that's like going to one of the greatest schools. And working with a big band onstage? That's a wonderful, wonderful opportunity.

AP: Is it true you initially passed on this?

lang: I tried. I did the first time they asked. I said, 'No' because I'm kind of stuck in my ways. I do what I do. But then they came back to me and I had thought about it a lot and came to the conclusion that you can't turn it down.

AP: What worried you?

lang: I was concerned that I had to act or that I had to perform in a way. To me, the most important thing is diving into the emotional narrative of the song. To me, that's everything. When they assured me that I could perform the songs the way I felt them and I didn't have to change to fit the show, that made a lot of sense to me.

AP: What did you think af-

ter seeing it?

lang: I was like: 'Oh, man. I do not fit in. I do not belong here. What they hell did I get myself into?'

AP: Do you have a back story for your character showing up at the Cotton Club?

lang: I kind of figured that I'm a misfit in society. I work up there. I don't have a lot of money. Maybe I know somebody in the band or maybe I have some ties to the people who are the patrons. But somehow I get onstage. I'm broke. I go after work and I get to sing with the band a few songs. But I really don't fit in.

AP: What will you wear?

lang: A suit by Isabel Toledo, who did the costumes. I don't think they're going to be gowns. I think Fantasia's got me on that one.

AP: If it all goes well, might we next catch you in a revival of, say, "South Pacific" or "Gypsy"?

lang: No. It's not who I am. I mean, I may be completely singing—pardon the pun—a different tune after this experience, but up this point, no. I would say not.

AP: Do you think this might open a new door for you?

lang: It may even shut a door (laughs). I may even retire after this. I don't know. I honestly have no idea.



2014 nominations

The 86th annual Academy Awards will be presented March 2. Nominees in major categories:

Best actor	Best actress	Best director
Christian Bale "American Hustle"	Amy Adams "American Hustle"	David O. Russell "American Hustle"
Bruce Dern "Nebraska"	Cate Blanchett "Blue Jasmine"	Alfonso Cuarón "Gravity"
Leo DiCaprio "The Wolf of Wall Street"	Sandra Bullock "Gravity"	Alexander Payne "Nebraska"
Chiwetel Ejiofor "12 Years a Slave"	Judi Dench "Philomena"	Steve McQueen "12 Years a Slave"
M. McConaughey "Dallas Buyers Club"	Meryl Streep "August: Osage County"	Martin Scorsese "The Wolf of Wall Street"
Best supporting actor	Best supporting actress	Best picture
Barkhad Abdi "Captain Phillips"	Sally Hawkins "Blue Jasmine"	"American Hustle"
Bradley Cooper "American Hustle"	Jennifer Lawrence "American Hustle"	"Captain Phillips"
Michael Fassbender "12 Years a Slave"	Lupita Nyong'o "12 Years a Slave"	"Dallas Buyers Club"
Jonah Hill "... Wall Street"	Julia Roberts "August: Osage County"	"Gravity"
Jared Leto "Dallas Buyers Club"	June Squibb "Nebraska"	"Her"
Best foreign language film	Best documentary	Best animated feature
"The Broken Circle ..." Belgium	"The Act of Killing"	"The Croods"
"The Great Beauty" Italy	"Cutie and the Boxer"	"Despicable Me 2"
"The Hunt" Denmark	"Dirty Wars"	"Ernest & Celestine"
"The Missing Picture" Cambodia	"The Square"	"Frozen"
"Omar" Palestine	"20 Feet from Stardom"	"The Wind Rises"

Source: Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences

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U2, Timberlake, Obama to appear on new Fallon show

NEW YORK (AP)—Jimmy Fallon is premiering his new show with a bang.

NBC announced Monday that Will Smith will appear on the Feb. 17 debut of “The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon.” U2 will perform.

Justin Timberlake will close out the week, which will also include appearances by first lady Michelle Obama, Will Ferrell, Bradley Cooper, Kristen Wiig and Jerry Seinfeld.

Lady Gaga, Arcade Fire and Tim McGraw will perform during the week.

The first four episodes of Fallon’s new show will air at midnight following the Sochi Winter Olympics. Its regular time slot is 11:35 p.m. Eastern.

Fallon replaces Jay Leno, who hosted “The Tonight Show” for 22 years. “Saturday Night Live” alum Seth Meyers is Fallon’s successor; his “Late Night” show debuts Feb. 24.



This Jan. 12, 2014 file photo shows members of the Irish rock band U2, from left, Adam Clayton, Larry Mullen, Jr., Bono, and The Edge at the 71st annual Golden Globe Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Julia Roberts’ family mourning half-sister’s death



In this Jan. 4, 2014 file photo, Julia Roberts arrives at the Palm Springs International Film Festival Awards Gala at the Palm Springs Convention Center, in Palm

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Los Angeles County coroner’s office is investigating the death of Julia Roberts’ 37-year-old half-sister.

Lt. Larry Dietz says Nancy Motes was found dead in a Los Angeles home Sunday while dog-sitting for a friend. Dietz says an autopsy has not been performed and there are no preliminary findings about how Motes died.

Motes is the younger sister of actors Julia and Eric Roberts.

People magazine reported the family released a statement that says Motes died of an “apparent drug overdose” but notes that no official cause of death has been determined. The statement describes the Roberts family as “shocked and devastated.”

Roberts is nominated for an Academy Award for her role in “August: Osage County.”

An after-hours phone message left for Roberts’ publicist was not immediately returned.

SNL alum Chris Kattan arrested in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Authorities say former “Saturday Night Live” star Chris Kattan has been arrested on suspicion of drunken driving after his Mercedes struck a Department of Transportation vehicle on a Southern California freeway.

The California Highway Patrol says the Mercedes was seen weaving in and out of lanes shortly before 2 a.m. local time Monday on the 101 Freeway in Los Angeles.

The CHP says Kattan drove into a vehicle that belonged to a crew conducting maintenance on a guardrail. No injuries are reported.

The 43-year-old Kattan was jailed on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol.

Kattan, who was on “SNL” from 1996 to 2003, was best known for the shirtless-dancer character Mango. He also starred alongside Will Ferrell in the 1998 film “A Night at the Roxbury.”



This Aug. 29, 2010 file photo shows Actor Chris Kattan arriving at the HBO Emmy party in West Hollywood, Calif.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Man who threatened Prince Harry’s life sentenced

LONDON (AP)—A man who threatened the life of Prince Harry has been sentenced to three years in prison. A judge said Monday that 31-year-old Ashraf Islam presented a risk to the public. He had pleaded guilty last year to threatening the prince. Islam was arrested after walking into a police station and making threats a day after a British soldier was killed on a London street on May 22. He was investigated by counter-terrorist police but was not charged with any terrorist offenses. Judge Richard McGregor-Johnson says investigators found that Islam had been tracking Harry’s whereabouts and travel plans.

The judge says Islam had given “considerable thought” to his plot against the prince. Harry was third in line for the British throne at the

time of the threat.

Bruce Springsteen announces 15 US tour dates

NEW YORK (AP)—Bruce Springsteen is coming back to America. The music icon announced a new set of U.S. tour dates Monday after finishing recent treks in South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Springsteen and the E Street Band will kick off the 15-date tour on April 8 in Cincinnati. His new tour will visit Nashville, Tenn.; Atlanta; Tampa, Fla.; and Houston, among other cities. Tickets go on sale at various times this month, with the earliest date being Friday. The tour wraps May 18 after two consecutive nights at the Mohegan Sun in Uncasville, Conn. Springsteen’s latest album, “High Hopes,” debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard Top 200 chart last month.

Study: Media everywhere, bathroom too

LOS ANGELES (AP)—TV viewers increasingly are watching programs on their own schedule, according to a Nielsen company media study released Monday.

In the past year, time-shifting of television content grew by almost two hours, averaging 13 hours per month, the study found. Viewers averaged nearly 134 hours of live TV viewing a month in 2013, down nearly three hours from 2012.

Television still remains central to media consumption, the study found, despite the increase in time-shifted viewing and streaming video through a computer or smartphone.

On average, American consumers own four digital devices, the report found. The majority of U.S. households own high-definition TV sets, Internet-connected computers and smartphones, while nearly half also own digital video recorders and gaming consoles.

The average consumer spends about 60 hours a week viewing content across various platforms, Nielsen found. Multitasking is common; 84 percent of smartphone and tablet owners say they use their devices as second screens while watching TV.

“It’s an incredibly exciting evolution in the ways people are using devices to get media,” said Megan Clarken, Nielsen executive vice president.

While sports events generated the most Twitter postings last year, more than 400 million, TV series also had impressive numbers. The top three: “Breaking Bad” with 6 million tweets, “The Walking Dead” with 4.9 million and “American Horror Story: Coven” with 2.9 million.

An offbeat survey finding: 40 percent of adults between the ages of 18 and 24 use social media in the bathroom.

Girlfriend staying as family’s guest deserves more respect

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: Last August my husband and I allowed our son’s 17-year-old girlfriend, “Lindsay,” to move into our home from out of state because she needs to live here for a year to establish residency for school. She’s a wonderful girl, mature, social and helpful.

My problem is my other sons (ages 18 and 14) are very angry that we have allowed a “stranger” to move in. My 18-year-old is a college student who lives on campus an hour away, but comes home on weekends. He and his younger brother feel I show favoritism to Lindsay and make frequent comments about the non-family member. They worry that I’m spending money on her even though they know her mom sends her money.

I’ll admit it has been nice to have a girl around. My boys sleep half the day away on weekends, but she gets up and is happy to run errands with me. I still include my sons in many activities without Lindsay, as I always have, and I did not anticipate this hostility. I feel bad for her because they make little attempt to hide it. My son loves his girlfriend, and I want her to feel comfortable and welcome without alienating my other sons. Help!

MOM OF THREE SONS

DEAR MOM: You and your husband are the parents, which means you are supposed to be running this “asylum”—not the inmates. The decision about who should or should not be a guest in your home is not up to your jealous older and younger boys, who appear to be suffering from a form of “sibling” rivalry.

As a guest in your home, Lindsay should be treated with respect, and it’s not happening. You should insist upon it, and if your wishes are not complied with, there should be consequences.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband of five years has three children from previous marriages. Earlier this year he learned some disturbing information about his youngest child. He opted not to share the information with me so as not to violate her privacy. I found out about it a few weeks ago, and I am deeply hurt that I was excluded.

I feel I have never been included as a true part of the family, and this is just another example. He feels his explanation justifies his actions and that should be the end of it. I am concerned that he will keep other things from me he feels are none of my business in the future. I am not at all comfortable with this situation. Do you think I am overreacting?

STEPMONSTER IN THE SOUTH

DEAR STEPMONSTER: Yes, I do. Your husband decided not to discuss something with you that he felt would violate his daughter’s privacy. Much as you might like to, you can’t push your way into being accepted. If relationships are going to happen, they must evolve naturally. So calm down and stop personalizing this. It isn’t a threat to your marriage unless you make it so.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: In this day and age, with computers and the ability to backspace, cut, paste and delete so easily, why do you still use a P.S.? Seems to me that P.S. needs to be used only with handwritten letters.

CANDICE IN PHOENIX

DEAR CANDICE: Mmmm ... not so fast. The majority of my readers communicate with me via the Internet, as you did. They use P.S. to indicate that what they are saying is an afterthought and so do I in some of my responses.

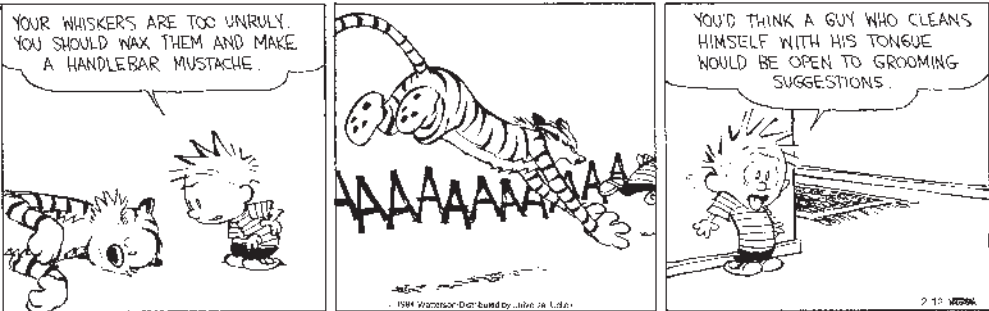
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order “How to Be Popular.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



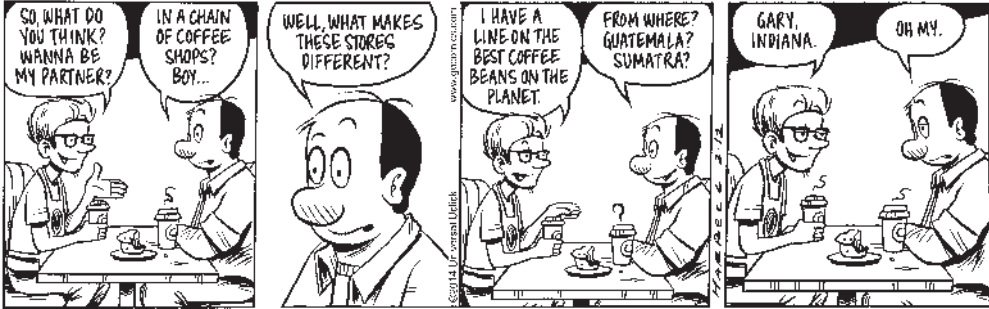
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Automaton, for short

4 Texas city

8 Fellow

12 "Go, team!"

13 Verve

14 State

15 Chowd down

16 Minstrel

18 Bundle of wheat

20 Spud's cousin

21 Missing

24 Greeting

28 Cast a vote

32 Yuletide refrain

33 Japanese sash

34 One of Ben Franklin's certainties

36 Hollywood trickery, for short

37 Mentor

39 Hype

41 Become upright

43 Black-thorn fruit

44 Pool stick

46 Peace symbol

50 Pavlova, e.g.

55 Spelling contest

56 Neighborhood

57 Drench

58 Playwright

59 Peruse

60 Vats

61 Solidify

DOWN

1 Bikini tops

2 Vow

3 Quaker's address

4 Duck feature

5 Chicken-link

6 —

7 Sans

8 Don

9 Rd.

10 Civil War

11 Mess up

17 "That feels good"

19 The entirety

22 Pierce

23 Second-largest state

25 Lomond, e.g.

26 Toy block name

27 Hodge-podge

28 Marshes

29 Touch

30 Old Italian money

31 Farmer's home?

35 People of Bratislava

38 Nude

40 "Of course"

42 Payable

45 Formerly, formerly

47 Heron's cousin

48 "American Gigolo" star

49 Spruced up

50 Tavern

51 Exist

52 Meadow

53 Debtor's note

54 Catch

Solution time: 21 mins.

DEEM AHM SUP
ANTI MERE USA
HEADBOARD RFP
WISP INFRA
NICAD SCAR
IDLY RUNABOUT
SCAFERAL APE
IMPALING PHOS
BRAN DIDNT
SCOTT OPAL
ALA BILLBOARD
GAR ERIE SHEED
ADD DANA EAST

Yesterday's answer 2-12

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mike Posner, 26; Christina Ricci, 34; Darren Aronofsky, 45; Josh Brolin, 46.

Happy Birthday: Plan your actions carefully and make choices based on your abilities, as well as what's important to you. Taking an emotional, passionate approach to what you do is fine as long as you don't let feelings stop you from finishing what you start. Use your energy effectively and recognize that anger is a waste of time. Your numbers are 9, 16, 23, 26, 37, 41, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Emotional upset and anger will not solve any personal problem that arises. Take the quiet, observant approach and document anything that is bothering you. Impulse will lead to a no-win situation and potential loss. Bide your time. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Make plans to get together with friends, or delve into a hobby or activity that brings out your best. Make travel plans or sign up for a conference or course that will enlighten you. Expand your interests and meet new friends. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't make a move because you are uncertain about your current direction. Know exactly what you want to do and where you want to go before you initiate any plans. Put thoughts on paper and research the possibilities. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Lighten up and let your imagination take you on a journey. Look at the possibilities and discover what's available to you. Changing the way you live or where will revitalize you. Initiate love

and romance to enhance your personal life. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Do your best to please those who are counting on you. Added responsibilities are likely. Handle whatever you are given swiftly and you will gain control and respect. Once you are in the driver's seat, you can make the changes you want. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Last-minute changes will take you by surprise. Stay on top of any joint investments. Don't let an emotional relationship cost you. Love is in the stars, but that doesn't mean you have to spend in order to gain someone's attention. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Ease into whatever you do. Expect to face opposition. Look for ways to appease everyone you have to deal with without compromising your own position. An unusual approach to problem-solving will give you the edge you need to excel. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Travel and dealing with people from different backgrounds will lead you on an adventure. Love and romance are highlighted and should be incorporated into whatever plans you make. Let your intellectual wit and keen intuition lead the way. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't wait for someone to ask for an update regarding a financial, legal or medical matter. Get your personal papers in order and be prepared to discuss whatever needs to be done so you can make the adjustments that will make you happy. ★★

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Question motives, take a step back and re-evaluate your situation and your strategy. Follow your gut feeling and ask direct questions in order to find out where you stand. The choice you make now will influence your future. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Whatever you do, don't slow down when there is so much to do in order to reach your destination. Concentrate on what's important and refuse to let anyone push you off course. The changes you enforce will help to stabilize your life. ★★

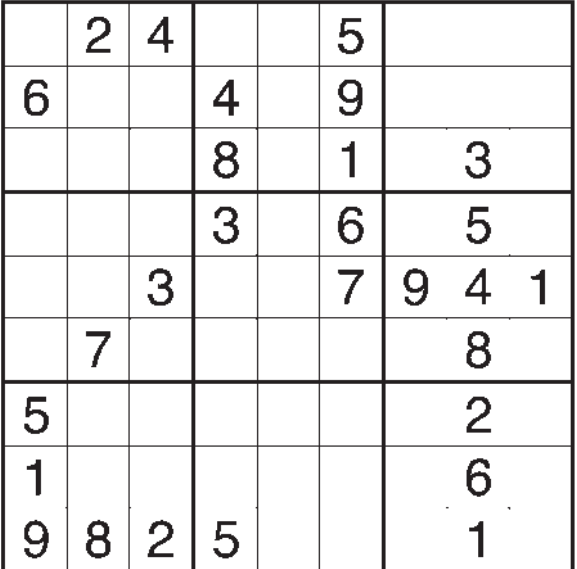
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take care of your needs. Pampering or socializing with the people you enjoy being with the most will help you relax and will rejuvenate you for upcoming endeavors. Your love life will take a positive turn if you let your romantic nature lead the way. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are intelligent, intuitive and articulate. You are determined and willful.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter](https://twitter.com/eugenialast)/[facebook](https://facebook.com/eugenialast)/[linkedin](https://linkedin.com/company/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

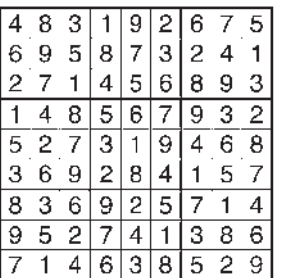
Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★ 2/1

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

DEREK HOUGH Solution: 10 letters



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Actor, Adored, Awards, Ballas, Bruce, Celebrity, Cha Cha, Choreographer, Coach, Dancer, DWTS, Emmy, Entertainer, Freestyle, Hip-hop, Host, Julianne, Katherine, MaraBeth, Marianne, May, Musicals, Olympics, Partners, Producer, Record, Romie, Rumba, Sandy, Sharee, Show, Song, Stage, Star, Talent, Team, Theater, Train, Trio, Trophy, Utah, Vote Yesterday's Answer: Remote

Treasury 12, 13, 14 or 15 can be purchased online at wonderword.universaljclick.com. (Contain 130 puzzles.)

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

(10) Mason, (5) Carpenter, (1) Plumber, 5 years experience. Email resume to landmark@pticom.com

1 General Manager: \$1,200-1,760/mo. Bachelor's degree & 4 yrs experience required. Must report to overseas owner in Korean. Email resume to jnd@hanmisaipan.com.

(1) Front Desk Clerk, (1) Cook, (1) Maintenance: 1 year experience required. Pay commensurate with qualifications and experience. Call 322-0102 or e-mail o2scuba@hanmisaipan.com.

(1) Piano teacher: \$1,200-\$1,800/mo. Bachelor's degree in music education and 5 yrs experience required. Email resume to yonsei@hanmisaipan.com.

Sams' Sons, Inc.
Job Vacancy Announcement
(1) Operation Manager
4-5yrs experience. Salary: \$5.55-\$6.00/hr
All interested applicants may send resume to mind@pacificactacticalsupply.com

American K&W Corporation
PMB 978 BOX 10001 Saipan, MP 96950
Job Vacancy Announcement
(2) MASSEUSE
Salary \$5.55 p/h.
Minimum 2 years experience.
Japanese and Chinese speaking a plus
If interested, email thomastchong@gmail.com

CGI, INC.
Job Vacancy Announcement
(2) Commercial Cleaner & (2) House Worker, High School graduate w/ 5yrs of work related experience. Must have own transportation to job sites. Must be able to work flexible days, hours and willing to work on holidays and weekends. Salary: \$5.55.
Please submit your resume to tes_caballica@hotmail.com or apply at V.S. Sablan Plaza in Chalan Piao. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(10) Beautician
(4) Massage Therapist
All applicants should have a min. 3 years work related exp. Must be able to consistently demonstrate good customer service, preferably knows how to speak Chinese and Japanese. Flexible working hours. Rate \$5.55/hr. Please mail resume to PMB 373 Box 10003, Saipan, MP 96950 or email news426@gmail.com. New Star International Corporation dba Asahi Beauty Salon and Asahi Massage Therapy.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(3) MASSEUSE
Minimum of 3 years experience
Mandarin language fluency required
Salary: \$5.55 per hour
R & H USA INVESTMENT CORP., LTD.
PMB 268A, P.O. BOX 10002, Saipan, MP 96950. Call 287-8855

American K&W Corporation
PMB 978 BOX 10001 Saipan, MP 96950
Job Vacancy Announcement
Open Date: 2/10/14 • Closing Date: 2/17/14
(2) Waitress – Fine Dining
Salary \$5.55 p/h.
Minimum 2 years experience.
Japanese and Chinese speaking a plus
If interested, email thomastchong@gmail.com

JAR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
Job Vacancy Announcement
(1) Interior Designer
- with 4 to 5 years experience
If interested, send resume to:
PMB 2025 Box 10001
Tel: 285-5354 or 285-4297

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Warehouse #2 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
\$0.45 per sq/ft. Negotiable
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 235-6527/28 or 285-1317



Job Vacancy Announcement

(31) Security Officer

Submit applications, police clearance, and copy of certification to our office
Apply: Rm. 3D, 3rd Floor, TSL Building, Garapan.
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Speights, Warriors hand 76ers another rout, 123-80



OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—By the time reporters were allowed in the visiting locker room at Oracle Arena late Monday night, most of the Philadelphia 76ers already had cleared out.

The television in the center of the room was turned off. There were no box scores from the game on players' chairs—which is typical after most NBA games—and there were no smiles to be had by anybody.

After losing by a total of 88 points on consecutive nights in California, the 76ers just want to forget what happened.

“Not going to turn on TV or read the papers,” forward Evan Turner said.

Marreese Speights scored a career-high 32 points to hand his former team a near-record setback, leading the Golden State Warriors past the woeful 76ers 123-80.

Philadelphia nearly matched the NBA mark for the largest total margin of defeat in consecutive games. The Detroit Pistons lost by 95 points combined in back-to-back games in November 1966, according to STATS.

“It’s hard for everybody,” Sixers coach Brett Brown said. “The reality of it is they have put in so much time and despite all the turmoil, it’s a group that’s been together, stayed together. At times, you look up and you have to keep going and keep on playing with some level of dignity, and it’s hard doing that.”

After losing 123-78 at the Los Angeles Clippers on Sunday night in a game it trailed by 56 points in the third quarter, Philadelphia (15-38) figured it couldn’t get much worse.

It almost did.

Speights finished 12-of-15 shooting and grabbed eight rebounds, and Stephen Curry added 23 points and eight assists to help the Warriors go ahead by 49 in the fourth quarter.

“It was a thing of beauty,” Golden State coach Mark Jackson said.

Michael Carter-Williams scored 24 points, and Turner and Thaddeus Young had 12 points apiece for a rebuilding 76ers team that never put up much of a fight during its seventh straight loss.

No other team in NBA history has lost two straight games by at least 40 points each. Philadelphia has now done it twice.

The 76ers lost back-to-back games in April 1994 by a combined 93 points, and they’re struggling to explain—and correct—what has gone so wrong during this latest stretch.

“You just look up at the scoreboard and see a lot of points. I really don’t know,” Turner said. “We’re in the game at one point. We were down by like 10, and then the next thing you know it popped up to like 25 or 30.”

Philadelphia finishes a three-game road trip Wednesday night at Utah before heading into an

All-Star break that can’t come soon enough.

Golden State outshot the Sixers 48.9 percent to 36.7 percent and outrebounded them 60-38 despite playing without center Andrew Bogut (left shoulder injury) and backup center Jermaine O’Neal (sore right wrist). David Lee, who had missed the past two games with a sprained left shoulder and strained left hip, had 13 points and 13 rebounds in 31 minutes.

Brown said before the game that he was happy his team had a chance to quickly atone for its horrendous showing in Los Angeles. Instead, the 76ers had another embarrassing performance.

Pistons 109, Spurs 100

In Auburn Hills, Mich., Brandon Jennings scored 21 points and the Detroit Pistons beat the San Antonio Spurs in John Loyer’s first game as interim coach.

Detroit abruptly fired Maurice Cheeks on Sunday after only 50 games as coach, but although they’ve been unimpressive for the most part this season, the Pistons have played better lately. The comfortable win over the Spurs was Detroit’s fifth in seven games.

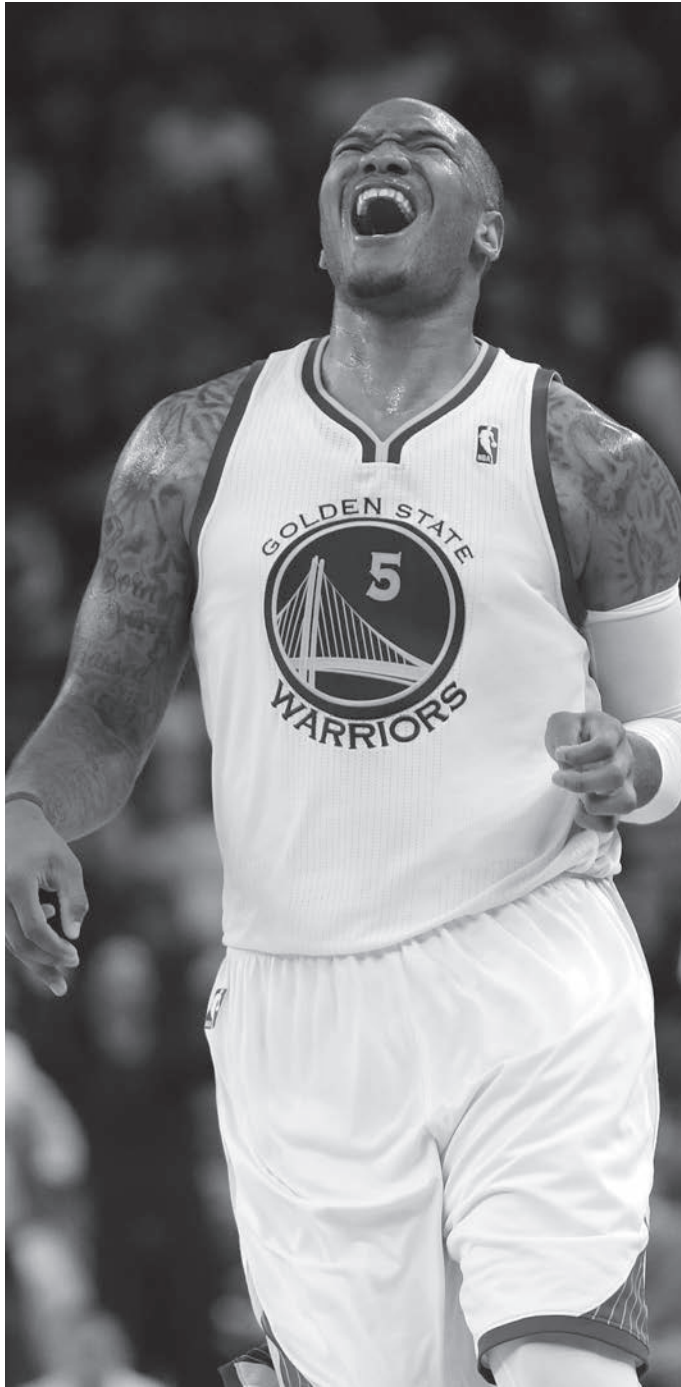
Rodney Stuckey scored 20 points for the Pistons, and Greg Monroe added 15 points and 10 rebounds.

Marco Belinelli led the Spurs with 20 points.

Detroit pulled even with Charlotte for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Rockets 107, Timberwolves 89

In Minneapolis, Dwight Howard



Golden State Warriors' Marreese Speights reacts as he misses a shot during the second half of an NBA basketball game on Monday, Feb. 10, 2014, in Oakland, Calif. Golden State won 123-80.

had 18 points and 15 rebounds, and the surging Houston Rockets used a fourth-quarter push to hold off the Minnesota Timberwolves for their sixth consecutive victory.

Chandler Parsons had 20 points and James Harden scored 19 for the Rockets, who have won six straight for the first time since taking seven in a row from Jan. 13-23, 2012.

Back after missing one game with a bruised left quadriceps, Kevin Love led Minnesota with 31 points and 10 rebounds. Chase Budinger had 15 points for the Timberwolves, who have lost four straight and six of seven.

Pacers 119, Nuggets 80

In Indianapolis, David West scored 25 points and Roy Hibbert added 14 as the Indiana Pacers routed the short-handed Denver Nuggets.

Indiana snapped a five-game skid in the series, beating the Nuggets for the first time since a 31-point blowout in November 2010. The Pacers (40-11) still have the NBA’s best record, the league’s best home record (25-2) and now lead two-time defending champion Miami by four games in the Eastern Conference.

Wilson Chandler scored 17 points to lead the Nuggets (24-26), who have lost three straight. They played without several injured players, including Andre Miller, Danilo Gallinari, JaVale McGee, Nate Robinson and Ty Lawson.

Raptors 108, Pelicans 101

In Toronto, Kyle Lowry had 19 points and 12 assists, Patrick

Patterson scored a season-high 22 and the Toronto Raptors beat the New Orleans Pelicans.

DeMar DeRozan also had 22 points, Terrence Ross added 14 and Tyler Hansbrough scored 12 for Toronto, which has won five consecutive meetings and seven of eight against New Orleans. The first-place Raptors moved three games ahead of Brooklyn in the Atlantic Division by winning for the ninth time in 11 home games.

Tyreke Evans had 23 points and 10 assists, and Anthony Davis scored 19 for the Pelicans, who lost their second straight and have dropped four consecutive games in Toronto.

Celtics 102, Bucks 86

In Milwaukee, Jeff Green scored 29 points and Kelly Olynyk added 14 points and 11 rebounds as the Boston Celtics pulled away from the Milwaukee Bucks in the fourth quarter.

The Celtics used a 12-4 run to start the final quarter to break open what had been a tight game. Green had seven points during the spurt and 11 overall in the quarter, while Olynyk scored 10 after Boston entered the fourth clinging to a 70-68 lead.

Jared Sullinger added 13 points and 10 rebounds for Boston.

Brandon Knight had 22 points for Milwaukee, which also got 17 points from Gary Neal and 16 points from John Henson before he left late in the game with an ankle injury.

With a new commissioner, NBA enters its Silver age

NEW YORK (AP)—His name is already on the ball. Now Adam Silver can put his stamp on the NBA.

On All-Star Saturday in New Orleans, Silver will deliver his first state of the league press conference as commissioner, a chance to tell a worldwide viewing audience how he plans to make the NBA bigger and better than it was under David Stern.

Don’t expect anything major.

After working so closely with Stern during his 22 years at the league, Silver’s fingerprints were already all over the \$5.5 billion business long before he became in charge of it 10 days ago.

“I’m not coming in with a five-point plan,” Silver told The Associated Press during an interview in his office at NBA headquarters. “I’m not an outsider coming into the league. I’ve been part of this league for a long time and if there was something that I thought should’ve been done markedly different than the way it’s done now, I think David and I would have pushed

each other to do it.

“My priority is the game and that’s what I’ll be telling people next Saturday.”

He has been at the NBA since 1992, overseeing the league’s entertainment empire, helping negotiate collective bargaining agreements, and on Feb. 1, he replaced Stern. He is liked by owners and respected by players, all believing Silver is the person to continue the massive growth the league saw under Stern.

“He’s someone who has the same kind of feel that we have, in the sense of how can we make this pie bigger? How can we make this game bigger? Miami Heat All-Star Dwyane Wade said.

“He’s going to be a good commissioner I believe. Strong in what he believes in. He was in the (CBA) meetings as well, so we know what kind of guy he is and we respect him.”

Silver, 51, ended up at taking Stern’s old job after ignoring his advice early in his career.

He laughs now when recalling the path that led to him becoming the NBA commissioner.

“It never even was a consideration of working at the NBA,”

Silver said. “I don’t think I understood what that meant. I truly stumbled into working at the NBA.”

Silver began his career in the legal field but was interested in transitioning to business, the same move Stern had so successfully made. So he wrote to Stern, who had worked at the same firm where Silver’s father, Edward, was a lawyer. Silver had handled some media cases and was aware of Stern’s accomplishments in negotiating cable TV deals.

Stern gave him the number of someone to call, but the job was outside New York. Silver wasn’t interested in moving, which he explained to Stern when they spoke again.

“He said, ‘Why didn’t you tell me? I’ve got some other ideas,’” Silver said.

“It was happenstance,” he added. “I don’t think I quite understood what I was getting into at the time.”

He doesn’t plan on changing much, insisting that he and Stern would have already made whatever changes they felt necessary. But while the NBA’s international growth is frequently con-

sidered Stern’s greatest achievement, Silver seems focused on boosting the game’s popularity in the United States.

Silver has always been ahead of the curve when it comes to basketball.

He attended Duke in the early 1980s before the Blue Devils became a powerhouse, when nobody camped out outside Cameron Indoor Stadium because you could just get into games with a student ID. He moved to Chicago to attend law school and began going to games with friends in the early days of Michael Jordan, before the Bulls became the biggest thing in basketball.

Now Silver is following one of sports’ greatest commissioners.

He acknowledges there will be times it will feel “lonely” without Stern there to face big decisions together, but Silver has worked so closely with Stern and been involved in so many aspects of the league that the transition should be a natural one.

“Adam has been preparing for the job for a long time, he understands the business and I don’t see him having much dif-

ficulty shifting into the role of commissioner,” former NBA Players Association executive director Billy Hunter said.

But Silver, designated as Stern’s successor in October 2012, knows that doesn’t mean it will always be easy.

“I didn’t have the same appreciation for what he was going through on a daily basis as the commissioner until I really thought about, ‘What if that were I and I had to make that decision?’” Silver said. “And it’s very different being sort of the voice in the ear of the guy making the decision as opposed to the guy making the decision.”

Nonetheless, he believes the league is in a good place and ready to grow. He met with executives from Facebook and Twitter while visiting Sacramento and Golden State during his first week as commissioner, seeking ways to bring the NBA to a larger audience than ever.

“To me,” Silver said, “the game is fantastic. The challenge is to use these new technologies and platforms to help more fans discover the game.”

Marcus Smart banned 3 games for shoving fan

STILLWATER, Okla. (AP)—Marcus Smart was quiet and subdued as he apologized at a podium, a demeanor in stark contrast to the one that sent shockwaves through Oklahoma State's basketball program hours earlier.

Smart was suspended three games Sunday by the Big 12 for shoving a fan in the closing seconds of the Cowboys' loss at Texas Tech on Saturday night.

The conference acted swiftly in banning the All-America guard, saying in a statement the penalty was handed down for "inappropriate conduct with a spectator."

Smart apologized to the fan, his teammates and his family for his role in the altercation before coach Travis Ford expressed support for the sophomore without dismissing the severity of his actions.

"This is not how I conduct myself," said Smart, a top NBA prospect. "This is not how the program is run. This is not how I was raised. I let my emotions get the best of me. It's something I'll have to learn from, a lesson I'll have to learn from. The consequences that are coming with it—I'm taking full responsibility. No fingers pointing—this is all upon me."

Late in Saturday night's game at Lubbock, Texas, Smart tumbled out of bounds behind the basket after trying to block a shot. He was helped to his feet and then shoved Jeff Orr with two hands after it appeared the Red Raiders fan said something to him. Teammates quickly pulled Smart away as he pointed back and shouted in Orr's direction.

Smart will miss games against Texas, Oklahoma and Baylor. He can return for a Feb. 22 home game against Texas Tech. But Ford said Smart will be allowed to practice.

"These guys mean a lot to me, and for me not to be able to be out there with them—it hits me in my heart," Smart said.

Texas Tech released a statement saying it conducted a thorough investigation. Orr denied making a racial slur, and Tech said the evidence backs up Orr's statement.

Orr, who goes to many Texas Tech games every year, has voluntarily agreed to not attend any Red Raiders home or away games for the remainder of the season, according to the statement.

"I would like to take this opportunity to offer my sincere apologies to Marcus Smart, Oklahoma State, Tubby Smith and the Texas Tech Men's Basketball program," Orr said in the statement. "My actions last night were inappropriate and do not reflect myself or Texas Tech—a university I love dearly. I regret calling Mr. Smart a 'piece of crap' but

I want to make it known that I did not use a racial slur of any kind."

Big 12 Commissioner Bob Bowlsby, who is at the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, condemned Smart's actions in a statement.

"Mr. Smart's actions were a clear violation of the Big 12 Conference's Sportsmanship and Ethical Conduct Policy," Bowlsby said. "Such behavior has no place in athletics, and will not be tolerated. I appreciate the efforts of Oklahoma State University athletics director Mike Holder in addressing this matter, and believe this is an appropriate response to an inappropriate action."

Ford said Smart already is learning from the incident.

"He understands, and we talked a lot about it, that no matter what is said or anything like that within a context of the game or life in general, whether it's the heat of the moment or no matter what it is, you've got to try to keep your composure as much as you can," Ford said.

Ford said Smart is a good teammate, "no sir, yes sir, do-whatever-you-ask-him-to-do" guy who is positive, even when he struggles.

"I hate it because he gets painted with a certain brush," Ford said. "I understand that. I get that."

Considered one of the best all-around players in the country, Smart has showed frustration more than once during an inconsistent season.

The sophomore guard got off to a fantastic start, leading to speculation that he could be the No. 1 pick in the NBA draft this year. He has struggled in some recent games, though, including a four-point effort against West Virginia when he kicked a chair on the bench. That led to him apologizing to his teammates afterward.

"Marcus puts a lot of pressure on himself at times. It's something we have been addressing for a while," Ford said. "On many occasions he has handled it well, and on a few occasions he hasn't. I never fault his intention to be at his best every time he steps on the court. At times, it may not come across as his best, but Marcus does a pretty good job of analyzing himself and the areas in which he can improve."

Holder said everyone involved in college athletics can learn from the situation.

"Some things are more important than winning and losing," he said. "Your respect you have, your self-image, all that takes a lifetime to build, can be gone in the blink of an eye. Playing competitive athletics is a privilege. It's not a right, it's a privilege. And that privilege can be taken away from you."



Oklahoma State head coach Travis Ford, center, Marcus Smart and Markel Brown, right, talk to the referee after Smart shoved a fan during an NCAA college basketball game against Texas Tech, Saturday, Feb. 8, 2014, in Lubbock, Texas.

1st openly gay NFL player to face hurdles

By **ARNIE STAPLETON**
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

Michael Sam will face a daunting set of challenges that most rookies don't have to deal with when making the already formidable jump from college to the NFL.

The SEC's co-defensive player of the year is about to find out if America's most popular sport, rooted in machismo and entrenched in locker room hijinks, is ready for its first openly gay player.

First, he'll have to find a team willing to put up with the media circus that will surround him. Then, he'll have to find acceptance like he did at Missouri, where his sexuality was a non-issue during a 12-2 season. Only now, he'll face opponents and their fans who know he's gay. He might even face cheap shots and teammates hesitant to shower alongside him or undress in his presence.

While several teams and coaches said Monday that Sam's sexual orientation wouldn't affect his draft status, former NFL punter Chris Kluwe, who contends his championing of gay rights led to his release from the Minnesota Vikings last year, wasn't so sure.

"The majority of players will be supportive of Michael Sam or just won't care," Kluwe said. "You'll have isolated

guys here and there who might try to make a fuss about it, but players by and large are very much, 'Hey, we're here to do a job, we're here to go out and play football.'

"In terms of the coaching/front office side, I think there's where issues are going to arise because they are going to look at this like, 'Hey, is this going to cause a distraction for the team?' And by distraction, they mean, 'We're not really OK with having a gay player on our team, we can't come out and say that, so we're going to use the word distraction,'" Kluwe added. "And unfortunately, those are the people who determine if you're employed or not."

John Elway has a unique perspective running the Broncos' front office now after a Hall of Fame playing career, and he said Monday he'd have no problem drafting Sam.

"We will evaluate Michael just like any other draft prospect: on the basis of his ability, character and NFL potential. His announcement will have no effect on how we see him as a football player," Elway said. "Having spent 16 years in an NFL locker room, the bottom line is that it's about treating others with respect and earning that respect. By all indications, it appears Michael has done just

that throughout his football career."

Several coaches said if a player is accountable and a winner, being gay is a non-issue.

"If anybody can come in and help us win games and be successful—black, white, yellow, straight, gay—I don't think it matters," said new Green Bay quarterbacks coach Alex Van Pelt.

Before Sam revealed his sexual orientation, the pass-rusher was projected as a mid-round draft pick.

Kluwe said reports that Sam's draft stock could drop

because he revealed his sexual orientation "basically could have been lifted from any American sporting paper in the 1940s when Jackie Robinson was about to enter Major League Baseball.

It's like we've been here before. Why do we have to keep doing the same thing?"

Sam will likely face even more scrutiny from opponents' fans than Chargers linebacker Manti Te'o did after getting fooled by a hoax involving a fake girlfriend while at Notre Dame.

What will help Sam is landing on a team with strong veteran leadership, something that was lacking in Miami, where tackle Jonathan Martin walked away at midseason, alleging guard Richie Incognito led daily harassment with

racial, aggressive and sexually charged comments. Incognito was suspended for the final eight games and Martin's career was thrown in limbo.

Former Redskins tight end Chris Cooley said Sam's performance on the field and as a teammate should quickly overshadow any stereotypes about sexual orientation.

"I don't think he faces any challenges as a player. I don't think he faces a lot of challenges as a person," Cooley said. "I think once he establishes himself as the kind of teammate he's going to be, I think everybody will accept it fine."

Eagles All-Pro guard Evan Mathis said Sam will face obstacles no matter what.

"NFL players shouldn't judge Michael Sam based on his sexuality but some guys will. MLB players shouldn't have judged Jackie Robinson based on his skin color but some did," Mathis said. "Whether or not the NFL is ready for it, it needs to happen. There are still people on this Earth who lived through the prohibition of alcohol and the Civil Rights movement. They can look back and reflect on how primitive those times were."

"Current generations will look back at marijuana prohibition and gays having to fight for equal rights and think how primitive those times were."

Out-of-Shape, A-Team sweep semis foes in Rocball league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Out-of-Shape and A-Team arranged their title showdown in the 29th Saipan Rocball League after sweeping separate opponents in the semifinals last week at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Top-ranked Out-of-Shape was paired against last qualifier Rollerz and won the first two games of the best-of-three semis series to advance to the finals. Out-of-Shape routed Rollerz in Game 1, 44-15, and had another convincing win in the series clinching Game 2, 51-35.

J.R. Gechig led Out-of-Shape in Game 2 with his 12 points off three aces, two kees, and one xunx. J.R.'s sister Knohlynn contributed 10 markers after gaining three aces and two kees.

With the Gechig siblings in sync, Out-of-Shape won three of the four sets played in Game 2. The top-seeded squad prevailed in the opening set, 13-5, and swept the last two, 13-6, 13-10. Rollerz avoided a shutout after taking



SAIPAN TRIBUNE
J.R. Gechig, seen here in a file photo, led Out-of-Shape to the semis sweep against Rollerz in the Rocball league last week at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

the second set, 14-12.

J.R. Gechig was also the heavy hitter in Out-of-Shape's Game 1 win. He got four aces, three kees, and one xunx for 16 points and had enough help from Chenny Lizama, who finished with 12 points off four kees, one xunx, and one kee.

In the other semis pairing, A-Team secured the sweep after pulling off a 30-29 victory

against the Teachers in Game 2. The Teachers drew first blood, cruising to a 12-2 win in the opening set. A-Team then recovered in the second set with a 17-4 win, but the Teachers also bounced back in the third with a 13-1 triumph to keep their finals hopes alive.

The Teachers went up by 11 points, 29-18, after three sets, forcing A-Team to score 12 points to gain the outright

win and the second finals seat. A-Team did what the doctor ordered, shutting out the Teachers, 12-0, to set a finals date with Out-of-Shape.

T.J. Eina had 10 points in Game 2 for A-Team, which moved one victory away from advancing to the finals after a double overtime win in Game 1.

The Teachers prevailed in

three of the four sets in Game 1. The recorded a 12-2 win in the opening set and 14-4 and 13-10, in the next two, but A-Team steal the fourth set, 14-4. The Teachers led in regulation, 43-30, but could not take the win, as Rocball rules state that a leading team can only get the victory provided it also wins the fourth set.

With the Teachers missing

an automatic victory, Game 1 went into overtime with the Teachers needing to win only one set to thwart A-Team, which was pressured to triumph in two sets. A-Team went on to complete the come-from-behind win after downing the Teachers twice, 6-2, 6-2,

A-Team and Out-of-Shape will begin their best-of-five championship series tomorrow.

Olympic halfpipe problems mounting

K R A S N A Y A POLYANA, Russia (AP)—Rider after rider took a crash course Monday night on an Olympic halfpipe that looked only half ready with less than 24 hours until men's competition is set to start.

There were dozens of falls, very few big tricks and a lot of complaining during a practice session that was pushed from morning to night while workers tried to make fixes. The men's event is Tuesday, and American Shaun White will be seeking his third straight gold medal.

"When you see every other

person fall, you know something's wrong," said American Hannah Teter, who took gold in 2006 and silver four years ago. "It's a little dangerous. I've seen more people fall today than I saw all season. It's dangerous because it's crappy."

American Danny Davis labeled the halfpipe as "garbage" on Sunday. After returning Monday, he said things were slightly improved but not ideal.

"It's a bummer to show up to an event like the Olympics and not have the quality of the halfpipe match the quality of the riders," Davis said. "Anyone who watched practice tonight can see there were

a bunch of people bouncing around in the flat bottom."

White called it "pretty hard to ride," but said it was nothing riders haven't dealt with before at other competitions.

"The flat bottom is just sand and mush," he said. "It's pretty heavy. And once everyone gets in there, it just turns to mush."

Riders said the steeply vertical pitch of the halfpipe has largely been corrected. But the bottom of the pipe is bouncy and slow. Dozens of riders clattered through the bottom, which slows speed and causes wrecks.

Davis said organizers told him they would treat the halfpipe with chemicals that keep the ice frozen at higher temperatures. Highs were in the 40s on Monday.

LEE

From Page 28

first dominated Riko Ojima last Saturday, 8-1, and then topped Jireh Warren last Sunday, 8-3. Warren earlier won her opening game, downing Susan Sablan, 8-3. Completing the Week 1 winners in the girls U12 singles was Conatsu's sister Coume,

NORTH

From Page 28

runs after the defending champions Brewers, who whipped the Fielders in the opener, 22-2. The win more than made up for the North Starz's 1-2 loss to the Yankees last week.

Catcher Cedric Ada led the North Starz demolition of the D-9ers, as he went 5-for-6 at the plate, scored three runs, and nailed seven RBIs. Ada had three doubles, recording his first one in the fourth inning to drive two runners home. He then blasted the last two doubles at the top of the seventh inning with the second one bringing three runners home. The North Starz earned their most runs (11) in sixth inning.

First baseman John Acosta also contributed in the sixth inning after drilling a two-run single, while centerfielder Juan Iguel hit 4-for-6 and added three RBIs and four runs. Iguel had an RBI triple in the sixth and RBI singles in the first and fifth. The rest of the North Starz's runs were made of passed balls, wild pitches, fielding errors, and two sacrifice flies.

The D-9ers utilized five pitchers to stop the damage the North Starz created on the former's defense, but to no avail, as the latter got into the board

who shut out Sablan, 8-0.

In the girls U14 singles, Ami Tsukagoshi and Malika Miyawaki ousted separate foes to join Julia Ishikawa and Tania Tan in the semifinals. Tsukagoshi coasted past Grace Choi, 8-1, last Saturday to arrange a semis date with Ishikawa, who drew a bye in the opening week and is seeded first

in the division.

Tan also had a bye in Week 1 and will be battling Miyawaki in the lower bracket semis pairing. Miyawaki marched into the Final Four after an 8-2 triumph over Mimi Sakano last Sunday.

In the girls U10, only two semis berths are left after Week 1 matches were played at the AMP tennis courts.

early. The North Starz logged two earned runs at the top of the first, three each off wild pitches and passed balls, and one off an error at second base for a 9-0 lead. The North Starz then went cold in the second inning, but the D-9ers failed to capitalize, as they continued to search for the elusive run at the bottom. Two more runs off wild pitches and one off a sacrifice fly stretched the North Starz lead to 12 before the D-9ers finally made it to the scoreboard with Ian Lizama reaching home off

a Kyle Kaipat sacrifice fly and Dylan Pua getting the second run off a fielder's choice.

That bottom of third inning was the only time the D-9ers scored, while the North Starz counted with a six-run top of fourth behind Ada's two-run double and the two-run single from designated hitter Robert Bansil. The two other runs were courtesy of a wild pitch and Juan Iguel's RBI single.

Ricardo Dela Cruz, who came in for Vince Castro, added one run in the fifth off Juan Iguel's

WILD

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conversion.

Then in the second half, Thoensaket began Wild Bill's offense for an early hat-trick, while three of his teammates also chipped in. Tyler Wisley handed Wild Bill's its second goal in the final frame, while Tanapon Unsa made it a 7-0 advantage. Adul Detdon gave Wild Bill's its last goal a few minutes after Thoensaket earned his fourth one.

Paire 1, Inter Godfather's 1
The spring season kicked off with a game between Paire and Inter Godfather's, which settled for a draw.

Ajani Burelle scored the first

goal in the second, as he found the back of the net in the 13th minute. Paire kept the shaky advantage in the first half and until the first 16 minutes of the second half before Inter Godfather's equalized.

Jeffery Castro canned the game-tying goal in the 62nd minute and both teams hung tough on defense to end the match in a deadlock.

Tan Holdings 5, Kanoa 2

In the second game, Tan Holdings outclassed Kanoa.

Sean Perez had a hat-trick for Tan Holdings. His string of goals started in the first half, as he knocked in two in the opening frame and opened the final half with another one. Perez got his first

sacrifice fly and the North Starz went for the kill in the last inning with their 11 runs. The six batters on the North Stars top of order in the sixth inning stepped into the plate twice with Acosta and Ada scoring two runs apiece.

At the bottom of the sixth, the D-9ers had two chances to gain more runs, but Tim Guerrero was beaten home with Ada catching a throw from shortstop Lamarc Iguel and tagging the D-9ers runner out. With two outs (the first batter flied out

Erika Tuttle and Maaya Sato secured the first two Final Four slots after recording contrasting wins over the weekend. Tuttle drew a bye in the first round and then whipped Tiara Imai, 6-2, to nab a semis seat in the top half of the bracket. She will face in the semifinals the winner between top-ranked Hana Ojima and Hye Jin Elliot, who won over

Erie Ortega.

In the bottom half, Sato pulled off a 7-5 triumph over Ellie Epoley to enter the semifinal round against the victor of the quarterfinal duel between Marielle Lopez and No. 2 seed Maria Gregoire. Lopez won his competitive tennis debut last Sunday after outclassing Shaira Valle, 6-2.

at leftfield), the D-9ers made it to scoring position anew with Wally Emul advancing to first off a Lamarc Iguel error and to second and third off passed balls, but was stranded with relief pitcher Anthony Castro and Acosta teaming up in a 1-3 put-out play.

Meanwhile, last Wednesday's game between the Fielders (0-1) and the Yankees (1-0) was rained-out and the former will play its second game of the season tonight against the D-9ers (0-2).

Irish Pagarao made both goals for the Commonwealth bets in the latter part of the second half. She registered the first goal in the 59th minute and the second seven minutes later.

Meanwhile, M-League organizers clarified that the relegation rules will be implemented right after the spring season.

The Thundercats, who ruled the fall season, will only be promoted to Division 1 if they will also finish on top of Division 2 at the end of the spring season in May. Matansa, which was winless in 10 games in Division 1 will be relegated to Division 2 if it remains the cellar dweller after this season.

Women's National Team 2, Sun Palace 0

In the lone Division 2 game, the CNMI Women's National Team stunned Sun Palace.

NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	27	24	.529	—
Brooklyn	23	26	.469	3
New York	20	31	.392	7
Boston	19	34	.358	9
Philadelphia	15	38	.283	13
Southeast Division				
Miami	35	14	.714	—
Atlanta	25	24	.510	10
Washington	25	25	.500	10½
Charlotte	22	29	.431	14
Orlando	16	37	.302	21
Central Division				
Indiana	40	11	.784	—
Chicago	25	25	.500	14½
Detroit	22	29	.431	18
Cleveland	18	33	.353	22
Milwaukee	9	42	.176	31
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
San Antonio	37	15	.712	—
Houston	35	17	.673	2
Dallas	31	21	.596	6
Memphis	27	23	.540	9
New Orleans	22	29	.431	14½
Northwest Division				
Oklahoma City	41	12	.774	—
Portland	36	15	.706	4
Denver	24	26	.480	15½
Minnesota	24	28	.462	16½
Utah	17	33	.340	22½
Pacific Division				
L.A. Clippers	36	18	.667	—
Phoenix	30	20	.600	4
Golden State	31	21	.596	4
L.A. Lakers	18	33	.353	16½
Sacramento	17	34	.333	17½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2014 SSC Meek & Mighty Ocean Swim Part 1

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Rintaro Miyawaki, right, and Taiyo Akimaru run out of the water during the 2014 SSC Meek & Mighty Ocean Swim held last Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.



A Saipan Swim Club swimmer tries to keep her balance as she heads out of the water.



A participant smiles as he is about to complete the 800m one-loop race.



Father and daughter Richard and Susana Villagomez walk their way to shore.



Pacific Islands Club's Dennis Tababa guides swimmers.



Pacific Islands Club's Glenn Policare watches the swimmers make their turn for the third loop of the 2.4-kilometer race.



Suzy Kindel heads to the finish line.



Two swimmers inch closer to shore.



Miku Torres gets out of the water.



**Speights, Warriors
hand 76ers another
rout, 123-80**
PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports



**Marcus Smart
banned 3 games
for shoving fan**
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28 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2014

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Lee rallies past Rastguiy in Coconut Classic

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Carol Lee played her first local game since returning from a successful stint with the Pacific Oceania Junior ITF Touring Team and survived a tough challenge from Negahr Rastguiy in the girls U18 singles division of the 2014 White Coconut Classic Tennis Tournament.

Lee, who won singles and doubles crowns with the selected squad that competed in Australia last December and January, fell behind Rastguiy, 1-4, before regaining her bearings and prevailing in the last seven games to steal the win in the round-robin tournament last Saturday at the American Memorial Park tennis court.

Lee and Rastguiy had only one match in Week 1 of the two-weekend competition and will

have their remaining games this weekend. Also seeing action in the opening week was Mikayla Lopez, who eased past Alina Ishikawa, 8-1.



Meanwhile, three other age groups contests in the girls singles had their opening week games.

In the girls U12, which also had a round-robin format, Coume Kaga booked back-to-back wins. She

See LEE on Page 26

North Starz wallops D-9ers in SBL



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ricardo Dela Cruz is seen here at bat for the North Starz, which routed the D-9ers, 31-2, during their game in the 2014 Saipan Baseball League last Friday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The North Starz barged into the win column in style after pounding the D-9ers, 31-2, last Friday night in the 2014 Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The 29-run margin was one of the biggest recorded in the

league in years and the most lopsided so far this season.

The victory also allowed the North Starz to become the second team this season to win by at least 20

See NORTH on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Carol Lee makes a baseline return to Negahr Rastguiy during their game in the girls U18 singles event of the 2014 White Coconut Classic Tennis Tournament last Saturday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Wild Bill's crushes Matansa FC



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Wild Bill's Gil Birnrich, left, collides with Matansa's Kamrul Kamrul, while Wild Bill's goalie Daniel Wollack stays back on defense during the second half of their game in the M-League last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Wild Bill's opened the spring season of the 2014 M-League with a bang after thumping Matansa FC in Division 1, 9-0, last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex.



Jeeraphong Thoensaket was on target in Wild Bill's first game of the season, scoring four goals. He had two each in the first and second half to give Wild Bill's a rousing start. Wild Bill's got the two other goals in the first half off an own goal and Daniel Wollack's

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